FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PCA WANTS U.S. ENVOY DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

PY112323 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1257 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- The Communist Party [PCA] asked the Argentine Government here today to declare Mr Schlaudeman, U.S. ambassador to Argentina, personna non grata in response to the incident concerning publication of documents a few days ago by the U.S. diplomatic mission in our country. In a declaration the PCA recalled that this is not an isolated episode, but that when our country had to face the attack by British colonialism, the United States took sides with our enemy, supplying it with political and military support. The PCA declaration states that the malicious move of publishing those documents is a real affront that cannot be left unpunished.

STATION ON UNITAS EXERCISES, U.S. INTERFERENCE

PY120108 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Argentine Navy has decided not to participate in the Unitas exercises with the United States. The communique released by the Navy Staff states that the reason for Argentina not participating is based on the U.S. support for Great Britain during the Malvinas conflict and on U.S. interference in Argentina's domestic affairs.

Two events related to Argentina's domestic policy occurred on the same day that this decision was made known. The first one had to do with pressure from London on the United States to prevent arms sales to Argentina, and the second one had to do with the document disseminated by the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires regarding the Cuban Government's complicity in Argentine subversion.

The Argentine Government is not unaware of this complicity or of the U.S. reticence in providing weapons to Argentina. Argentina's gratefulness for Cuba's support during the Malvinas conflict is above and beyond the differences that separate Argentina from Cuba. Marxist leader Fidel Castro himself stated that the two nations are separated by substantial ideological differences.

It would be useful to recall Luis Maria Drago's [Argentine legal expert 1859-1921] clearcut doctrine and the fact that the United States, regardless of its Monroe Doctrine, ignored the joint actions carried out by the British and German Navies against Venezuela in 1902. The British and German Navies landed troops in Venezuela because they wanted to collect Venezuela's debt to them.

At that time, the European powers exercised the right to use force, an action that was in vogue through colonialism. Argentina was also affected by colonialism in the case of the Malvinas and South Atlantic islands. Today the United States continues to implement a seesaw policy with Europe and America, as it did 80 years ago when the Drago Doctrine was drawn up. Although the causes for conflicts have changed between the beginning of the century and now, the power factors, however remain identical. At this point it would be proper to recall what (Inca Yupanqui) wrote in a letter addressed to the court of Gadiz, because his words are also applicable to the present situation. He wrote: A people that oppresses other people cannot be a free people.

MILITARY SOURCES DENY LANDING ON THULE

PY121927 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher confirmed yesterday that Argentine forces made a secret landing on Thule Island in the South Sandwich Archipelago, but Argentine military sources have denied the report, ascribing it to a maneuver by British intelligence.

In statements made in the port town of Felixstore, Thatcher said that the event "took place a long time ago and it must have been an Argentine Navy ship that came to put its flag there. We do not know what happened." She added that she had known about the landing before her visit to the Malvinas Islands from 8 to 12 January.

The British defense minister said yesterday morning that signs of the landing on Thule Island, the main island in the South Sandiwch group, were discovered on 19 December when a British ship, the HMS Hecate, visited the islands. The official spokesman added that the assumed raiders replaced the British flag with an Argentine one.

Argentina used to maintain a scientific observatory on Thule Island, but it was dislodged on 20 June last year, after our forces were defeated on the Malvinas Islands.

Argentine military sources denied the report released by the British Defense Ministry, saying that it was of a political nature since it was published at a time when Argentina was negotiating at the nonaligned meeting a declaration favorable to its claims of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

NONALIGNED DECLARATION SUPPORTS ARGENTINA

PY112204 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2130 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 12 Mar (TELAM) -- The final declaration of the Seventh Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Movement emphasizes its firm support for the Argentine Republic's right to recover its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

The document, stating the conclusions agreed on by the heads of state or government during the Third World's summit meetings held in New Delhi, points out the conference's recognition that the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands are part of the Latin American region and that the massive British military and naval presence on the islands is reason for serious concern for the countries of the area.

Furthermore, the document says that the movement follows with special attention the declarations made by the Argentine Republic during the 37th session of the UN General Assembly regarding reports about the introduction of nuclear weapons by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the region of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

PRESIDENT BIGNONE COMMENTS ON NEW DELHI SUMMIT

PY122234 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2033 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Nairobi, 12 Mar (NA) -- President Reynaldo Bignone stated here today that the Argentine delegation that participated in the New Delhi nonaligned summit meeting "fulfilled its task." He added: "The ideology of the government has not been compromised in any way; the government expressed its goals without renouncing any of its principles." He added that "The results achieved (in India) only 1 year after the war and despite tremendous British pressure, satisfy me and fill me with pride as an Argentine." Bignone made his statements to the newsmen accompanying him on his trip during stopover in this capital.

OFFICIALS ON STATUS OF MEDIATION WITH CHILE

PY112347 Paris AFP in Spanish 0115 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Santiago, 10 Mar (AFP) -- The current Argentine Government will not make any decisions regarding the pope's proposal for the Beagle Channel conflict with Chile, Argentine Ambassador to Santiago Jose Montes said here today. He emphasized that "my country's military junta and the president himself have said that the mediation must be resolved by the next Congress." He added that the call for a solution before the installation of the next Congress is a proposal made by Argentine politicians.

Asked about the status of bilateral relations he said: "The two countries are experiencing a calm, quiet period. I cannot complain."

In the meantime, during an interview published here today, Santiago Benadava, Chile's permanent ambassador to the pope's mediation said that an agreement with the current Argentine Government on the Beagle Conflict is quite possible. Benadava told the magazine COSAS that in his opinion the current Argentine chief executive has not ruled out reaching an agreement with Chile before the elections scheduled for October.

The diplomat, who is in Rome, warned that one should not pass judgment on Argentina's domestic situation. He indicated, however, that many "frequently contradictory' trends are surfacing in Argentina. It would be difficult for us to know what the result of all these forces moving in different directions will be, he added. He went on to disclose that an agreement has almost been reached between Chile and Argentina to draw up a lasting peace and friendship treaty. He also said that a general preliminary accord -- which should be further developed -- concerning another treaty dealing with incentives for economic integration, has been reached.

Benadava concluded by saying that the mediation process that the Vatican is conducting must not be delayed indefinitely. Argentina and Chile were at the brink of war at the end of 1978, a war that was avoided when Pope John Paul II launched the current mediation process. The negotiations are still continuing after Argentina objected to the pope's proposal for a solution conveyed to the two nations on 12 December 1980, a solution which has been accepted by Chile.

OVERDUE INTEREST PAYMENTS TOTAL $150 MILLION

PY120143 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Mar 83 p 16

[Excerpt] Approximately $150 million in interest payments fell due during the first 2 months of 1983, apart from the amount of $2.76 billion previously reported by the Central Bank. The delay in paying the interest caused reactions from Japanese and French banks. Economy Minister Wehbe will handle this problem in Panama at the end of the month. Argentina's inability to pay the foreign interest that fell due during the first 2 months of 1983 is hindering the negotiations aimed at obtaining new lines of credit to finance obligations that will fall due this year. Interest totaling approximately $150 million fell due during the first 2 months of 1983, while overdue interest totaled approximately $2.76 billion during 1982.

QUORUM ISSUE CONFISCATED, EDITOR SEEKS ASYLUM

PY112219 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1505 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (DYN) -- The government has ordered the confiscation of issue No 15 of the magazine QUORUM, and has ordered a ban on its distribution, sale and circulation throughout the country. This is the third punitive measure that has been adopted against this magazine during the past 5 months. Government House has reported that Jose Palozzi, QUORUM'S editor/owner, sought asylum in the Italian Embassy before it was publicly known that the issue would be confiscated.

The confiscation was ordered through Decree No 554, but when personnel of the Superintendency of Federal Security arrived last night at the premises where the magazine is printed, the issue of QUORUM had already been put on sale and therefore, they could only confiscate plates and film. Policemen were visiting newstands in this capital this morning in order to confiscate the issues that were on sale.

Despite the fact that the decree was not released until noon, it was learned at Government House that it is "similar" to the decree that was released on 10 February 1983 when confiscation of QUORUM's issue No 11 was ordered. On that occasion it was indicated that the issue of QUORUM contained "contents that had the intention of giving the public a distorted concept of the state's action against subversion through the dissemination of inaccuracies and false assertions, which also had the intention of discrediting the Armed Forces, accusing them of carrying out actions that violated human rights." Issue No 11 QUORUM referred to the people who had allegedly been tortured on the premises of the Navy's School of Mechanics during the fight against subversion.

"The issue that has just been confiscated persists on the same topic, because the title on its front page states: "The Navy's School of Mechanic 1975-78: The Hot Years" and in an article inside it reports on the alleged repressive activities against terrorism that were allegedly carried out in that establishment.

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 2202 GMT on 11 March reports, citing diplomatic sources, that QUORUM Director Jose Palozzi left for Rome this afternoon "under protection of the Italian Embassy." DYN says Palozzi boarded a Varig plane which took off from Ezeiza Airport at 1800]

Foreign Ministry Communique

PY120146 Bueonos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0020 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry released a communique today referring to the behavior of the director of QUORUM magazine when he sought refuge at the Italian Embassy. The communique reads as follows:

"The ambassador of Italy, Mr Sergio Conciancich, was summoned today and the following was imparted to him from the country. 2. This expression of profound displeasure is justified by Mr Palozzi's activities which compelled the national executive branch to prohibit the distribution, sale and circulation throughout the territory of the nation of issue No 15, year 2, of QUORUM magazine in order to preserve public order and security."

Italian Embassy sources reported that its officials granted Jose Palozzi, director of QUORUM magazine, the status of guest and not a person in asylum, because of his Italian nationality.

After staying at the embassy for 1 hour, he was accompanied by an Italian official to Ezeiza where he was put aboard a Varig plane at 1800 with the destination of Rome, Italy, with a stopover in Rio de Janeiro.

Italian Embassy Responds

PY121913 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0250 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (NA) -- This evening the Italian Embassy explained that, "In compliance with the ties of friendship between the two countries," this embassy acted with "its usual scrupulous fidelity to the Argentine authorities" at the time Jose Palozzi sought refuge and departed from the country. The following is the text of the communique issued by the Italian Embassy in view of the "profound displeasure" expressed by San Martin Palace:

"In view of the communique issued by the Foreign Ministry this evening the Italian Embassy hereby makes the following statement:

"1. As of 10 March in the afternoon, which is when Italian citizen Jose Palozzi sought the Italian Embassy's protection because he feared for his physical safety, the Argentine Foreign Ministry was notified of the event and asked whether it objected to Palozzi's departure to Italy.

"2. The Foreign Ministry expressed gratitude for the embassy's notification and decided to give an answer after the appropriate authorities had been consulted.

"3. On Friday, 11 March, the Foreign Ministry informed the embassy that "The Argentine authorities saw nothing improper in Palozzi's departure from the country.'

"4. As a consequence, Palozzi boarded a Varig plan, bound for Rio de Janeiro, at 1800 after fulfilling all requirements established by law for passengers leaving from Ezeiza Airport.

"5. In view of the aforementioned steps, the Italian Embassy considers that it acted with its usual scrupulous fidelity to the Argentine authorities in compliance with the strong ties of friendship between the two countries."

DESTABILIZATION PLOTTING ALLEGED, DENIED

PY111956 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Last minute report: The Bolivian constitutional Government has disclosed a subversive plot. After investigations carried out in the interior of the country, it has been established that 28 companies in addition to 5 private businessmen have decided to destabilize the democratic process that was achieved after a bloody struggle with de facto regimes.

A photocopy of a statement issued by the Interior Ministry notes that there are strong rumors about a military coup. But apparently it is not a classical military coup. The military will reportedly support a constitutional coup that this time will be perpetrated by civilians in Congress.

The movement will reportedly claim legitimacy by not dissolving Congress, which would be the only symbol that the democratic process has not been interrupted. Moreover, the military would also strive to create a power vacuum in the executive branch by forcing Siles Zuazo to leave the presidency. The vice president would also resign so that Congress could use its power to elect a president in keeping with the results of the 1980 elections. Once congress has recovered its power to elect a president, it will reportedly try to achieve a compromise between Victor Paz Estensoro and Jaime Paz Samora.

These charges were issued by Gustavo Sanchez, the interior under secretary. The official also reported a few minutes ago that a group from the Bolivian private sector is involved in actions aimed at destabilizing the constitutional government. During a press conference he held after briefing President Siles Zuazo on the investigations, Sanchez said that this group of private businessmen, whose names were also supplied to the press, is collecting an extraordinary amount of contributions in dollars for this objective. He said: The people should know that the profits which these companies obtain from currency that belongs to Bolivian people are being used against the people.

The companies and individuals involved have the objective of collecting $400,000. The identities of the main companies and the names of the persons involved are: Bolivian-American Bank; Bank of Cochabamba; [name indistinct]; Goodyear Company; Bolivian Beer Factory; Bolivian Toyota [name indistinct]; (?Expubol); (?Helmers Ranches); Bolivian Hotel Company; Monobol; Technical Services Company; (?Conterbec); (?Salvieti Brothers); Transportation Representatives Companies Inc; Intercampo; Fernando Romero; Jansa Inc; Mills Industry Association Inc; Bolivian National Bank; (?Ursi) Inc; Comsur; (?Goolach) S.A.; Edgar Gutierrez; Industrial Bank; and other persons with last names Calvo, Lorini, Claros, [name indistinct], (?Iate), and Jacobo Lee Brothers.

Giving more details on the participation of these persons in these activities, the under secretary noted that sometime ago Comsur [Southern Mining Company] put a plane at the disposal of these private groups for a trip that Fernando Illanes and Tito Hoz de Vila had to make to Tarija where they were to meet with Victor Paz Estensoro.

He said that the position adopted by the private business sector is opposed to that adopted by the workers sector which has decided to cooperate by donating part of their salary to consolidate the democratic process.

He noted that this is the result of investigations carried out by the proper government organization. He added that it seems that those involved were only able to collect half of the $400,000 they were trying to obtain to destabilize the process.

Moreover, he said that the government is willing to introduce (?restrictive) measures to avoid any plans aimed at undermining national interests. He also said that he was merely disclosing plans to destabilize the government and not a subversive plot [as heard]. He said: I did not charge that this was not a subversive plot [as heard], I merely said that there are businessmen holding meetings and that they are gathering money to destabilize the process.

However, he warned that if the authorities learn that there are plans to carry out a plot, those involved will be detained.

Denial by Army Commander

PA131621 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1551 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 13 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivian Army Commander General Simon Sejas Tordova denied today that a plot exists to stage a military coup to overthrow the current democratic government headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo. The military officer described as "mere rumors" reports over the past few days about the existence of "lodges" and "secret pacts" within the Armed Forces to stage a coup against Siles Zuazo.

He confirmed that in the past few days he has visited several military garrisons in Bolivia to explain to the members the contribution which the Armed Forces have made to the progress of the current democratic process. However, officialist political sectors, labor and even government sectors believed that the "consultations" among some military officers in the various military garrisons might be connected with a coup d'etat.

Recently the government of Siles Zuazo charged that civilian groups headed by businessmen and congressmen, together with "military sectors," were reportedly involved in a "constitutional" coup e'etat to pressure Siles Zuazo to resign as president.

Denial by Business Group

PY120238 Paris AFP in Spanish 0113 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 11 Mar (AFP) -- The influential Private Businessmen's Confederation has categorically denied that it has been promoting a plot against President Hernan Siles Zuazo, while asserting that the Communist Party has no place in the current democratic government. Tito Hoz de Vila, executive secretary of the businessmen's organization, stated to AFP that it is true that the businessmen agreed to collect money, not, however, for plotting but in order to cover internal administrative expenditures.

Deputy Interior Minister Gustavo Sanchez disclosed that about 30 prominent private businessmen with links among the opposition parties planned to gather $400,000 and had collected $200,000 so far to finance a coup d'etat based on a pronouncement by the Congress. Officials consulted by this news agency stated that the businessmen cannot need $400,000 for administrative expenditures to keep their offices open. Gustavo Sanchez said that $400,000 is a sum that implies danger.

The secretary of the Businessmen's Confederation said: "We are for democracy, because we believe that the best way for the development of private business is to be found under the democratic system."

When Hoz de Vila was asked about the presence of the Communist Party in President Siles Zuazo's Cabinet, he said: "We are concerned at that presence. The Communist Party is contrary in principle to all kinds of liberties and for that reason we think it has no place in this democratic regime." Hoz de Vila repeated his rejection of the Interior Ministry under secretary's charges and said that the Bolivian businessmen are only asking the government for a coherent line of action and clear rules of the game.

In turn, Jose Maria Palacios, a high Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) leader, said that the workers, the main protagonists of the recovery of democratic liberties, will defend the constitutional state against any kind of coup, whether it be violent or soft. Palacios said that the labor movement will defend, consolidate and deepen the democratic process. He added that when the Armed Forces returned, in a tactical sense, to their barracks, they handed over only the government administration to the civilians, while retaining power for themselves and for the antinational sectors of private business. He concluded by stating that the COB would seriously consider the possibility of cogernment with President Hernan Siles Zuazo, in case there were an official proposal to that effect.

Mobilization in Santa Cruz

PA131639 Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 13 Mar (AFP) -- The popular forces of Santa Cruz, 1000 km east of this capital, basically comprising the Department Labor Federation (COD) and the Local University Federation (FUL), have resolved to mobilize in the face of conspiratorial sttempts of the right, the Catholic newspaper PRESENCIA reported here today.

This mobilization occurred, the newspaper adds, "after the eastern capital awoke this morning to find the walls painted with the following slogans: "Enough of communist misgovernment;" "The time has come for the federalization of Bolivia;" "Bolivia will not be Sovietized;" "Long live the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN);" whose leader is former presiden. General Hugo Banzer Suarez (1971-1978).

The FUL and (COB) leaders warned that if the antidemocratic and rightist sectors attempt to interrupt the strengthening of the process of constitutional consolidation, they might unleash "a civil war in the country."

PRESIDENT REAFFIRMS CONFIDENCE IN VICE PRESIDENT

PY121855 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 12 Mar (AFY) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Suazo has expressed his confidence in the loyalty and integrity of Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora in the wake of charges made by Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez Salazar that Paz was one of those who were trying to destabliize the government, it was reported today in La Paz.

In a written declaration in view of what are said to be unfounded assertions and speculation, the chief of state expresses his confidence in the loyalty and integrity of Vice President Paz Zamora, a member of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left].

The declaration adds that the vice president has been an important participant in the democratic process developing in the country and that his behavior can only be judged as being strictly in accordance with the principles which serve as basis for a government that is discharging a popular mandate.

Sanchez Salazar had also denounced businessmen who, after destabilizing the Siles Zuazo regime, would seek a compromise agreement between Paz Zamora and former President Victor Paz Estenssoro through the Congress.

Top MIR leaders, Paz Zamora, Antonio Aranibar Quiroga and Oscar Eid Franco met yesterday with President Siles Zuazo. According to Aranibar Quiroga, the meeting with the president was so cordial that the MIR might even be willing to again become part of the government, provided the political management of the country is sharply corrected and the current cabinet is totally shuffled.

PRESS, RADIO WORKERS' STRIKE BROKEN BY EMPLOYERS

PY111548 Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 10 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported in La Paz today the 24-hour strike ordered by Bolivia's journalists was broken by the employers of press workers of Santa Cruz and by the owners of radio stations in La Paz.

The owners of the La Paz radio stations, most of whom are leaders in the Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association, ASBORA, went ahead and carried their newscasts openly and in defiance to the strike called by the journalists who are demanding wage increases.

At the same time, Santa Cruz's newspapers circulated as usual today, apparently after their managers agreed to homor the request for a special payments to their editors, of two and a half [not further specified] of their wages.

The Bolivian Press Federation of Newspaper Workers, FTPB, stated that if the National Press Association, ANP and ASBORA do not make the special payment ordered through a government resolution, the federation will call a 48-hour strike and then a general and indefinite strike.

While ANP and ASBORA claim that they have no legal status to sign compensatory wage agreements, journalist unions have decided to continue with the multilateral negotiations.

PRESIDENT SAID TO OPPOSE MALUF CANDIDACY

PY110317 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Mar 83 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page, by C.C.: "Figueiredo Does Not Support Maluf's Candidacy"]

[Excerpt] He who wins will be the president, but Paulo Maluf will never win. This is not a mere guideline but rather an order that President Joao Figueiredo gave at government house last week. To more than one interlocutor, the president revealed his obvious desire to prevent an earlier implementation of the formal presidential succession process and to postpone it at least until the second half of 1983. However, the president is paying attention to both visible and concealed events having to do with the issue, and he is not so naive as to believe that everybody will accept his orders and comply with them. While on the one hand he seems happy, although also a little concerned, over the inaction of those who, in his opinion, are potential presidential candidates, on the other hand, he does not lose track of the steps of the former Sao Paulo governor. Even though it is not the president's intention to harass Maluf -- at least until if becomes absolutely necessary -- he has made it clear that he will never support Maluf's presidential candidacy. He would do anything he can to prevent Maluf from emerging as winner at the national PDS [Social Democratic Party] convention. But, as Air Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos said a few days ago, the president would not go as far as adopting exceptional measures. But even if Maluf wins at the convention -- a rather remote possibility -- that is, if he is formally nominated candidate, Figueiredo will still be able to influence the succession game. He could take other steps in order to block Maluf's election at the electoral board, such as dispensing with the principle of party loyalty through a bill that the opposition would certainly support -- because board members would thus be allowed to vote for candidates sponsored by parties other than their own -- or even encourage the appointment of a new candidate by another party. Not even a return to direct presidential elections would be excluded, as a last resort.

However, these hypotheses are mere speculation, because Figueiredo does not believe that the candidate he will propose to the PDS (that is, Aureliano Chaves) could be defeated by Maluf at the party convention. In the meantime, Maluf, who is running on his own, seems to be well ahead of the others, although this is due to their inaction. For his part, after he recuperates completely and as soon as he is nominated, Vice President Aureliano Chaves should start seeking to win support. The risk involved is undoubtedly great, but since the president seems so calm, powerful political antidotes must have been produced at the secret laboratories of government house.

"Delendus Maluff" is not a government war cry. At least it is not yet heard, because it is barely a whisper. However, there is no doubt that it will be said aloud and even shouted if needed.

The presidential successions that took place during the revolution have shown that only one general appointed by his predecessor could assume the presidency. Gen Goao Figueiredo himself was in fact imperiously imposed by General Ernesto Geisel. Castello Branho did not like Costa e Silva, but had to accept him. The second president of the revolution did not participate in the process because he was sick, voiceless and paralyzed when the high echelons elected General Garrastazu Medici. Medici, in turn, did his best to prevent Geisel's designation but, annoyed and indifferent, also had to give up.

Figueiredo expects to proceed like his predecessor, although with different methods. He would not resort to radical measures to impose his candidate even if he would seem to be on the verge of defeat. In that case, he will try to reverse the course of events in order to have his candidate elected. He will not hesitate to engage in politics by coordinating, talking and calling deputies and senators to account. He would also make use of government resources, to the extent he is allowed to as well as his influence in his party. Those factors will hardly fail to succeed when put to work under the coordination of the center of power of the system. That is Figueiredo's strategy. He will not tolerate work in support of candidates other than his own in the government house area. Figueiredo's private secretary, Hector de Quino Ferreira himself has just been notified of this state of affairs and since it seems that he will continue in his post, it follows that he will no longer work for Maluf and not even give personal opinions at Maluf's request. Like Aquino Ferreira, all other assistants, including the ministers, will have to follow the rules of the game. A kind of pact is being informally agreed upon at government house. Everything seems to indicate that Aureliano Chaves will be the official candidate but, should any other name turn up, like Mario Andreazza, Helio Beltrao, Leitao de Abreu, Costa Cavalcanti or even General Octavio Medeiros, there will be neither discrepancies nor rebellion. Everybody will work for the elected candidate. Obviously, some people will work harder than others, but nobody will dare dissent or side with what is being derisively called "PPM, Party of Paulo Maluf." Even the slightest shift from the government's position would involve an immediate dismissal.

HIGH COMMAND TO STAY OUT OF SUCCESSION PROCESS

PY111652 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff Brigadier General Valdir Vasconcellos met with President Figueiredo yesterday, and talked to the press afterward. He affirmed that the Army High Command will not participate in the process to choose the successor to President Figueiredo, and then voiced his personal opinion that the candidates can be civilian or military, just the same. However, he observed, the process will be initiated and conducted by the president personally. General Vasconcellos believes that all reports concerning the presidential succession, including declarations directly or indirectly attributed to former Sao Paulo Governor Paulo Maluf, are no more than speculation.

DAILY CLAIMS FIGUEIREDO CONSIDERED RESIGNING

PY110126 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Protuguese 10 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial: "An Impossible Disappearance"]

[Text] The "Bermuda Triangle" is an area in the Atlantic Ocean located between the Bermudas, the Antilles and the coast of Florida, where planes and ships usually disappear in a mysterious manner. In Brasilia they give the same name to the triangle whose vertices are Planalto Palace, the Congress and the Justice Ministry. In this triangle, in less than 24 years of our republican history several presidents have lost themselves irretrievably and so many ministers and members of Congress have disappeared from public life. The most dramatic cases, as far as presidents go, were those of Janio Quadros who resigned, of Joao Goulart who was ousted, and of Costa e Silva who was declared incompetent.

Now, there is a rumor going around among politicians that possess considerable government information, to the effect that even President Joao Batista Figueiredo recently thought about following Janio Quandros' example for a number of reasons.

The sources claim that it had been very difficult to make General Figueiredo change his mind about resigning, such was his degree of disenchantment with the administrative performance of his cabinet team and with the criticism hurled at him. Furthermore, the president does not understand why the opposition refuses to close ranks in favor of the political truce, which in his opinion is the only way to deal with the economic crisis of the nation.

It is possible that this story which the president's friends tell is not correct because Brasilia, the most politically isolated seat of political power in the nation, has always been a breeding ground for fantastic stories. Unfortunately it is true that some of these stories turn out to be correct and this has prompted the launching of other, sompletely incredible, ones.

The rumors about the latest resignation gained so much strength that the official government spokesman could well have to deny them. However, regarding the president's possible disenchantment with the opposition's reaction to this plea, Social Democratic Party representatives themselves acknowledge the fact that General Figueiredo is asking for the impossible: To silence the opposition to his government inside and outside the new triangle, without offering the opponents anything in exchange.

AERONAUTICS MINISTER ON PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

PY120242 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] Brasilia — Speaking to reporters on the presidential succession, Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos stated yesterday: "I believe that the time has come for a civilian to be in the presidency of the republic." The aeronautics minister went to Alvorada Palace to say goodbye to President Figueiredo because tomorrow he will leave for the United States to undergo health treatment for a week.

Although he feels that "it is still early" to discuss the presidential succession issue, stating that "it is a subject to be discussed next year," he stated: "I have already expressed my opinion several times. I think the time has come for a civilian to be in the presidency, but I also feel that it is still too early to discuss this subject because we need to work for the recovery of the economy."

De Mattos declined to comment on the position of possible presidential candidates such as Paulo Maluf or Antonio Carlos Magalhaes who, according to some observers, are reportedly already working or seeking a nomination in the electoral college: "I only know what has been published by the press, I cannot comment on it."

Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila also feels that it is too early to talk about presidential succession: "The president still has 2 years of government ahead and there are serious problems to solve. The attention of the political class must not be distracted from the most urgent problems toward one that has not yet been included in the agenda. I believe the succession problem will take another year to be discussed."

Atila declined to comment on reports that the target of an alleged campaign to undermine potential presidential candidates would be former Governor Maluf.

He denied that he is aware of any interest by Planalto Palace in an exhaustive investigation which future governor Franco Montoro intends to carry out seeking to destabilize Maluf's political career..

"The president has not chosen any candidate, and if he has one, he has not revealed it to anyone," he stated, denying reports published by a Brasilia newspaper. This newspaper stated that "Maluf's precipitation has reportedly accelerated the succession process which should begin in July 1983." Atila admitted, however, that Maluf "is moving hastily, but the president has already said that he will begin the process when he finds it most appropriate."

WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, FRENCH GENERAL'S VISIT NOTED

PY120206 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Army Chief of Staff Gen Tulio Chagas Nogueira stressed yesterday the importance of all countries in contributing to the development of technology. He noted that as far as production of war materiel is concerned, Brazil has developed a level of technology which qualifies it to transmit this technology to other countries. General Chagas Nogueira made this statement upon receiving the visit of Gen Pierre Mouton, French commander of II Corps of the French 6th Military Region (which in Brazil corresponds to a local military command), who is making an official visit to Brazil at the invitation of the army staff. General Mouton attended a lecture of the organization of the Brazilian Army at Army Headquarters yesterday. He was decorated with the order of military merit, in the grade of commander.

According to General Chagas Nogueira, General Mouton's visit is in keeping with the program of military cooperation between Brazil and France, "in which each party presents what it is doing." General Chagas Nogueira stated that Brazil is interested in agreements which may include technological cooperation.

He also noted that "for each historical moment there is a more intimate relationship," and explained that after World War II the country received the French military mission and later it created a joint military commission with the United States. Regarding the proposal made by the Reagan administration for the creation of commissions to study possible areas of military cooperation between Brazil and the United States, General Chagas Nogueira stated that it is a subject under study by the government.

General Mouton also voiced his impression regarding Brazil -- "an extraordinary country" -- stressing its potential. He added that through his visit he expects to expand military cooperation between France and Brazil.

The French general will continue his visit in Brasilia today by stopping at the Army police battalion in the urban military sector. He will also attend a new lecture prepared by the Army General Staff. Tomorrow he will visit the headquarters of the 1st Army in Rio de Janeiro and the Agulhas Negras Military Academy in Resideńde.

PINOCHET'S CONSTITUTION ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

PY111630 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1412 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Speech by President General Augusto Pinochet on second anniversary of new Constitution from the conference hall of the Diego Portales building in Santiago -- live]

[Text] Madam President of the National Women's Organization, Messrs Members of the Government Junta and distinguished wives, Mr President of the Supreme Court, Messrs State Ministers, Mr Comptroller of the Republic, Messrs Members of the State Council, Messrs Ministers of the Supreme Court, Mr President of the Constitutional Tribunal, Messrs Generals of the Armed Forces and Carabineros, Messrs Under Secretary of State, military and civilian authorities, ladies and gentlemen:

On 11 March 1974 during the first phase of the national liberation process, the military junta made public the government's declaration of principles which is a historic document that faithfully reflected the political ideals which would inspire the most comprehensive socioeconomic renewal in the country's history. It intended to put an end to the totalitarian threat once and for all, and to reestablish individual freedom and national sovereignty that was so seriously jeopardized by those who attempted to bring the nation to heel.

Never before had the country stood up to a man, demanding with so much anguish and sense of urgency the intervention by the Armed Forces and the forces of order. This intervention was the last recourse to stem Soviet domination so openly stimulated and facilitated by its agents. Never before has the existence of Chile as a free and sovereign nation been so gravely imperiled. After 4 years of firm dedication to rebuilding the country, on 4 January 1978, through a national plebiscite in which the citizenry widely participated, the achievements accomplished by the government were ratified and the nation's president was entrusted with the mission to conduct a process aimed at installing a new political institutional system. At the same time, during that period, the Commission for a New Constitution was making progress with the task of writing a new national charter.

Two years later, on 11 September 1980, the citizenry approved the text of the new Constitution and charged the nation's president and the government junta in its capacity as a colegislative body with the task of implementing it through appropriate legislation. To that end, a firm deadline was established and a period was set for the gradual implementation of the new juridical and political order. It behooves us to recall today, when some people seem to have deliberately forgotten it, the strong support which the military government and the citizenry have given to me. This support is understandable because this government since 1973 has done nothing else but to interpret the will of the people. Let us remember that more than two-thirds of the Chilean men and women rendered a historic verdict on a memorable 11th of September, leaving no room for hesitation, interpretation and, even less, doubts.

Even the most bitter adversaries of this regime were forced to recognize the legitimacy of the new Constitution that was in force on 11 March 1981 and that marked the beginning of the respective presidential period. The task undertaken by the military government can only be properly evaluated by analyzing it within the proper context and by reviewing government actions since it assumed power in September 1973.

Those who charge that government actions have resulted in political stagnation do so by analyzing the situation out of context and by viewing the regime's actions with a deliberate shortsightedness. Allow me to remind them in particular about the achievements of the institutionalization process which do not only show the government's aspiration to progress but also show that different stages must be carefully planned in order to achieve established objectives.

Therefore, it is clearly established that those who demand a minimum consensus to continue with the objectives of the institutionalization process are repudiating the sovereign will of the people which provided the proper framework for developing national activities and granted undisputable power to constituted government organizations to direct the new institutions consecrated by the citizens' (?rights).

Gentlemen: This is the only total consensus that is not derived from biased interpretations or from minorities that aspire to undeserved privileges.

Once again I reassert today that the government will uphold and will make the people respect the solemn commitment it contracted with Chilean citizens and national history regardless of the consequences and of the (?measures) that must be resorted to. [applause]

Therefore, I warn those who pretend to alter the decision of the plebiscite or distort the mandate that the majority of Chilean citizens have entrusted us with, that we shall strictly fulfill the sovereign will of the Chilean people, which is expressed through the approval of our Constitution, and the enforcement of which is guaranteed by national defense institutions. Therefore, those who refuse to understand this, will suffer the consequences. [applause]

Fellow Chilean citizens:

From this podium I warn those politicians who are anxious to take over power that we shall not tolerate any limitations in the exercise of our duty beyond what is established in the Constitution that was legitimately approved and that is the result of a true consensus that no one can disregard.

The people decided to have a new Constitution on 11 September 1980. A Constitution that is different from the [word indistinct] system that led us to the verge of a civil war and that unlike this old system, is based on the traditional national values which throughout our history have given specific characteristics to our fatherland.

This nationalist democracy does not accept commitments with international ideologies, or economic ties with these ideologies which eventually curtail the freedom and self-determination of the people.

I have repeatedly pointed out that the kind of democracy we approved cannot be compared with the traditional democracy we knew up to 1970. A democracy that confused sectors, or sectors having disgraceful objectives, pretend to restore despite knowing that by doing so they would lead the country into politicking, and the chaos we rejected, and continue to reject in our permanent struggle against Soviet aggression.

We know from our experience under the previous constitutional system that political parties are inclined to become monopolies of power, something that aggravates social conflicts. At the same time, their struggle for power does not follow ethical principles because they resort to harmful maneuvers against their adversaries and even to actions aimed at damaging the reputation of the individuals and their families.

Some political parties currently follow foreign trends, receive foreign economic support and have international ideologies foreign to us. For this reason, there is a marked difference between the constitutional system approved by the people and the political project drawn up by one of the opposition parties on the occasion of the 1980 plebiscite. Those groups [as heard] insisted on conducting an intense campaign to restore the old democratic system. They proposed some amendments but maintained its shortcomings and defects.

It is my duty to make the people aware of something that could cause a fatal confusion. When the government and the opposition talk about returning to total democracy, they are not referring to the same thing. The people must be aware of the marked difference between the two ideals. In view of the totalitarian threat, and so as to prevent former vices, my government is drawing up a political system under the Constitution that provides for the granting of the administration of the regions and of the communities to intermediate organizations [cuerpos intermedios de la sociedad] that are free of politicking. This political plan is aimed at establishing a really effective and authentic democracy.

What I said before does not mean that political parties will disappear, but rather that they will be restored to their real role as trends of opinion within a legal framework that will defend the country from abuses. The basis of this legal framework is contained in the new Constitution that was freely approved by the people. This is the only way for us to preserve our most sacred republican traditions. We will prevent an outbreak of distortions deriving from party fanaticism and we will establish an authentic representative democracy.

We will continue to work hard to renew our institutional system in an attempt to avoid former vices and the evil habits that the political parties have had for the past generations.

We Chileans will not be misled by either false ideals which are ostensibly designed to serve our interests or by those outdated politicians who seek to secure support through demagogy.

The government has decided to speed up the study on constitutional, organizational laws so that we can continue to march along the present road and speed up the institutionalization process. For this purpose, the government has ordered the creation of a speed high-ranking commission made up of prominent officials and personalities to propose draft bills on organizational laws, as provided for by the 1980 Constitution.

After the draft bills are submitted by the commission, the regular procedure will be followed without affecting the consultative and advisory work carried out by the Council of State.

At the same time, I have ordered the Cabinet ministers to inform the people through the media of the contents of any draft bill that might be of interest to them.

On this solemn occasion I cannot avoid referring to the economic crisis which we have been enduring for over a year.

Nobody understands the sacrifices and sufferings the sudden economic recession has caused the citizenry better than the president. This economic phenomenon was precipitated chiefly by a noticeable and sustained drop in prices for our exports in the international market, by a drop in demand for our exportable goods, by a reduction in foreign loans, and by the excessive increase of foreign interest rates.

In addition to the aforementioned reasons are the domestic interest rates, which have also contributed toward worsening the recession and have compelled the government to adopt drastic corrective measures to safeguard common interests.

I want to make special mention of two measures which have caused public concern. In the first place we were faced with the need to devalue our currency. This measure drove some to state that the people would lose their confidence in the government. However, we only took this measure with the objective of protecting Chile's supreme interests, since we believe that the nation's interests are more important than the risks which safeguarding them entail.

The drop experienced by the national income made a cut in private and public expenditures necessary. In view of this the government was faced with the unavoidable alternatives of either decreeing a law cutting salaries and wages or devaluating our currency in order to adjust relative prices.

We deemed the first alternative terribly unjust since it would disrupt the budget of the lower income sectors and would leave those who had carefully planned their budget uncovered. Moreover, the contraction in demand as a result of reducing salaries and wages would have sped up the drop in economic activity and in the short term doubled the negative effects of the economic crisis. The course of events has shown that the country has started to overcome the crisis and there are initial signs of a reactivation. The reactivation will be slow at first but sustained.

In the second place we were compelled to confront the problem caused by an almost monopolistic use of credits and the effects that this had on financial enterprises.

Everyone is aware that the so-called economic groups exerted great pressure on the private banking sector through the creation of a large number of conglomerates having the sole purpose of carrying out financial operations. These conglomerates, in their determination to obtain resources from the capital markets, pushed interest rates up to a level which prevented productive enterprises which did not belong to any group from being able to borrow money. Because of this, all efforts at reducing interest rates were useless.

Through irrefutable deeds the government has proven that its sole objective is the fate and future of Chile, and in keeping with this objective it has ordered the intervention of those banks whose operations could not be put in order in any other way. The immediate results of these measures revealed that the concentration of capital, which hindered the economic reactivation plan, was carried out in financing centers created for the purpose of obtaining domestic and foreign loans for interlocking capital enterprises.

We will not allow these abuses, which were committed by taking advantage of the government's faith in the private enterprises, to happen again and those who violate the laws currently in force will be sanctioned. [applause]

The government knows that the unsuccessful business deals of some businessmen have also hurt many low income people. I would like to make very clear that the country does not have the resources to compensate the wrong investments made by private individuals in the free market or to depart from its specific functions by using public funds to serve the interests of third parties.

In this regard I would like to point out that the government will not under any circumstances depart from its specific duties, but it will administer stiff penalties to all of those, whatever their conditions, who jeopardize the interests of Chile.

Those who have enriched themselves by illegally taking advantage of the freedom which the government has so tenaciously tried to extend and consolidate for the benefit of the population will not only be punished under the current legal system, but will also receive the unanimous condemnation of all their countrymen.

I would also emphatically like to point out that the actions of a few, no matter how wrong they were, should not lead to the idea that the system is a failure. We believe that private property and initiative are inherent in freedom and constitute the effective formula for development of a country.

In order to make corrections in those imperfections, which have allowed some unscrupulous individuals to take advantage of the economic freedom advocated by the government, I have decided on the creation of a very high-level commission which is going to review the entire current economic legislation. In this manner new measures can be implemented in the future in order to prevent the type of risks we have experienced.

On the other hand, without departing from the general principles of a mixed market economy which is open and pragmatic, we will initiate a process of sustained recovery by implementing an emergency economic program which will be characterized by its coherence and austerity and which will be directed by the finance minister. This program will have the following objectives: create job sources to reduce unemployment, boost exports, generate resources to finance the foreign debt, increase foreign reserves, and stimulate activity in productive sectors.

During this year the Finance Ministry will study the possibility of granting three compensatory bonuses to government employees, who will negotiate them collectively. These bonuses will be paid in April, September and November and will be intended to alleviate the effects of rising prices on the salaries of public servants until the end of this year. Despite the economic difficulties, the government has not turned its back on its social goals as attested by the inauguration of a housing project aimed at eliminating encampments in the area of Santiago: Today 1,758 housing units will be turned over to people living in those encampments. This is the first phase of a project calling for the construction of 3,000 housing units in the municipality of Santiago during the current year. This is to put an end to the distressing situation in which fellow countrymen live under the most unsanitary conditions in 12 encampments that were erected in the area of Santiago under previous governments.

In La Granja community, 366 housing units will be delivered today to new homeowners as part of a special project by the Housing and Urbanization Ministry to build 2,355 units in order to clear out 15 urban encampments. Similar projects are being undertaken in other municipalities under provisions of the law which was enacted for that purpose in 1972 [as heard].

Ladies and gentlemen: We are going through a difficult stage in a process, which is meant to thoroughly transform the life of the nation. The adversaries of this regime are vainly trying to drag the country into a chronic crisis, thus to frustrate this valuable experiment that saved us from falling into the grips of a totalitarianism that would have turned Chile into a satellite of another nation. These adversaries will smash into the barrier set up by the nation's will, the Armed Forces and the forces of order, and the government's determined decision to attain the goals which the people have approved and entrusted to that government.

I ask the large majority of Chilean men and women who silently contribute with their best efforts to the greatness of the country not to dismay but to keep up their unswerving faith in the destiny of our nation. I ask them to make it possible with their support for the government for the process to be continued, surmounting obstacles which are only transitory.

To those who feel their faith ebbing -- the faith that brought us together in the great cause set in motion on 11 September 1983 -- I invite you to recall those troubled days which, thanks to our unity, we left behind, but which may return if we let that faith die in our hearts. Today more than ever we must consolidate the national unity that resulted form the effort of every Chilean. We must share in the sacrifice and effort made by the government to demonstrate that the horizon it sets its eyes on is the progress of all Chileans, especially those most needy.

Chileans: In this difficult undertaking there is no room for dismay or faintheartnedness. Resolve and determination on the part of every citizen is needed. I call upon all those who strive tirelessly for the common good of Chile to staunchly oppose those who, moved by selfish interests and taking advantage of the current economic difficulties affecting the country, are trying to undermine the attainment of our high national objectives.

This is no time to seek benefits at the expense of the common interest or job sources. I call on everyone to contribute with austerity and effort to the task of economic recovery which the government is undertaking. We need the sacrifice and effort of everyone without exception.

This is no time for indifference or selfishness. This is a time to demonstrate our true love for the fatherland. Today more than ever the country needs our personal generosity and unselfishness faced with the greatest challenges in the most difficult stages of our history, Chileans have demonstrated the fortitude of a race tempered by adversity. No obstacle will turn us back, but rather strengthen the commitment we and the commanders in chief of our institutions sealed with God, Chile and its people in the early hours of 11 September 1973. [applause]

LOAN REPAYMENTS TO SOME BANKS SUSPENDED

PY120226 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] The Central Bank has sent out circular letters to national financial institutions indicating that they should not pay foreign loans linked to operations of international trade contracted with banks which are not renewing their credits with Chile. In economic circles, this measure has been labeled as an apparent reprisal against foreign banks which have refused to grant facilities to refinance the Chilean foreign debt. It is believed that the foreign banks of lesser economic power are the ones which have not reached agreements on this matter and the large financial organizations have requested a clarification on this matter from economic officials.

The circular letter, signed by Francisco Garces Garrido, director of the Central Bank International Department, points out that the purpose of the measure is to guarantee compliance of the agreement of the advisory committee of Chile's 12 creditor banks signed in New York on 30 Janaury 1983. Garces emphasized that the circular letter is aimed at adequately implementing the negotiations currently taking place with foreign banks and that the central bank will not remit abroad those payments of foreign credits contracted for less that a 1-year term with financial institutions and used for financing trade operations with a due date 30 April 1983. The measure will be applied to those banks which do not grant new similar credits on similar terms. Garces indicated that in the case of financial institutions granting these facilities, the payments will be made on their respective due dates. The payment of interests will continue to be made normally on their respective due dates.

Regarding this matter, Finance Under Secretary Enrique Segel said in a brief statement that he does not believe that the circular letter would obstruct the negotiations with the international banks because these banks have the best disposition toward Chile with regard to continuing negotiations. He said that, in any case, it is up to the finance minister to make any statement relevant to this matter.

DELEGATE TO VATICAN TO ANALYZE MEDIATION

PY110051 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Colonel Ernesto Videla, head of the Chilean delegation to the papal mediation, has travelled to Rome where he will analyze the progress of the mediation with Cardinal Agostino Cassaroli, Vatican secretary of state.

Shortly before leaving for Rome Col Ernesto Videla told journalists: We think it will be a good thing to analyze the mediation. This is the objective of our trip.

At the same time he voiced his hopes that the mediation will end as soon as possible since it will benefit both Argentina and Chile.

SUBVERSIVE ESCAPEE RECAPTURED BY SECURITY FORCES

PY111706 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpt] A subversive, who was arrested by security forces, has been placed at the disposal of the First Santiago District Military Court.

(Heriberto Mena Vacias) fled from the San Antonia prison on 23 January with (Hector Osorio Olguin).

(Mena) was being tried due to his proven participation in various actions that violated the state's security law, and for illegal sale of arms and explosives.

According to the National Intelligency Service (SNI), (Mena), who is a member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), during the short time he was at large took part in three subversive actions with ordinary delinquents.

It was also disclosed that he kept in contact with very well known organizations, which have made use and distorted issues regarding human rights for political purposes, in order to be able to leave the country after remaining underground.

It was disclosed that the security forces managed to arrest him again on 2 March after an exhaustive search carried out in Santiago.

ORP CLAIMS KIDNAPPING, DEMANDS $50 MILLION

PA112319 Paris AFP in Spanish 2231 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Cali, 11 Mar (AFP) -- Colombian newspaper EL PUEBLO today reported that the clandestine People's Revolutionary Organization, ORP, claims to have kidnapped U.S. citizen Kenneth Bishop in Colombia and demands a $50 million ransom in U.S. dollar bills. The paper reported that the demand has been made to the "man's relatives and the Texas Petroleum Company," a company for which Bishop works as explorations manager.

According to the newspaper report, which has not yet been confirmed by relatives or the Texas Petroleum Company, which has remained completely silent, the ORP has demanded that the money be paid before next [word indistinct] March or else Bishop will die. The guerrilla organization, which appeared in Colombia in 1982 with the kidnapping and murder of a popular leader, Gloria Lara, sent a communique in which it warns that Bishop will be killed if their demands are not met.

EL PUEBLO also reports that Bishop's wife, Colombian citizen Bertha Cuellar, has sent a letter to the kidnappers in which she "claims not to have the $50 million and begs them to spare his life." Bishop was kidnapped last Monday in the northern sector of Bogota by three men and one woman, who killed his driver and a bodyguard. A spokesman for the Texas Petroleum Company was asked about the ORP's demands and he said "We know nothing."

AIR FORCE CHIEF'S HOME BOMBED, STRAFED

PA120339 Paris AFP in Spanish 0252 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota, 11 Mar (AFP) -- An attack that cost the lives of three guards was perpetrated tonight against the home of General Jose Marie Gomez Jauregui, commander in chief of the Colombian Air Force, in northern Bogota, according to broadcast sources. It is not known whether the high-ranking officer was at home at the time of the attack. The area was immediately cordoned off and access to newsmen and the curious was prohibited. The intelligence services are combing the city searching for the aggressors.

Initial reports, which have not been confirmed officially, indicate that presumed urban guerrillas in a BMW car threw a bomb and strafed the house with machinegun fire (?and then fled) toward the western part of the city. Three of the soldiers on guard died in the attack and a civilian who happened to be in the vicinity was wounded.

FARC KILLS THREE, KIDNAPS FIVE IN RECENT ACTIONS

PA120116 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota -- Three dead, including a mayor, five kidnapped, including the parish priest of Pamplona, and an unspecified amount of goods stolen is the result so far of three incursions by members of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] in Arauca intendancy and La Guajira Department. According to reports released here, members of the 10th front of the outlawed FARC yesterday raided the town of La Esmeralda, near Arauquita and, after haranguing the residents and subduing the few policemen on guard at the hamlet, killed Mayor (Alfredo Casco Sanmariel) in his own office.

Simultaneously, another group of the same FARC front kidnapped (Maximiliano Cruces), parish priest of Pamplona, who was traveling in his private vehicle to (Saramela), in Arauca intendancy. Reports indicate that the priest was beaten for several minutes by the guerrillas, who released him after several hours, giving him a message for the Bishop of Arauca. The contents of the message are still unknown.

Similarly, for the first time, FARC guerrillas staged an armed raid on the town of Chorrera, in Fonseca municipality in la Guajira Department, where they killed two youths and kidnapped four others. The victims were (Ruz Paladino) and (Adalberto Camargo). The authorities have not yet released the names of the hostages. In the attacks on the hamlets of La Esmeralda and Chorrera, the alleged guerrillas sacked commercial establishments and government offices, stealing an undetermined amount of foodstuffs, drugs and merchandise.

Members of the F-2 early this morning killed three kidnappers in the course of a spectacular operation in which industrialist (Juan Vasquez) was released safe and sound, according to confirmation just received from Bogota police headquarters. (Vasquez) was kidnapped on 1 February at 0620 as he was exercising near Monserrate Hill in the eastern part of the capital. This morning the anti-extortion group of the F-2 prevented the payment of the 15 million pesos that had been demanded for the industrialist's release and at the same time killed three of the kidnappers, who have not yet been identified.

MINISTER NOTES DECLINE IN OIL EXPLORATION

PA121327 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota -- The government has announced that an evident and worrisome recession in the international oil industry, which has serious repercussions in the country, will cause exploration activities to drop by 50 percent this year. Carlos Martinez Simahan, Colombian mines and energy minister, said that of the 37 active exploration and developmental rigs that were used last year, only 23 are still active today. The projections in the exploration sector for this year show that we will only be able to reach 50 percent of our goal as compared to 1982. This situation caused by the recession of the international oil industry affects us greatly since there will be no basis on which to plan a self-sufficiency because the main factor, the exploration, is reduced by 50 percent and has a tendency to decline in the near future, minister Martinez Simahan said.

The minister said that 52 percent of the current oil production is done by Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, Ecopetrol. He added that the depletion of old production fields is compensated for only by the support of the new fields of Hatuey, Casalare and Huila Department.

After stating that the government will redouble all its financial and technical efforts to intensify its oil exploration activities, the minister said that the country must become aware of the real oil situation at present. He said that realistic figures and facts tell us the value of the discoveries in Arauca. After six years of arduous exploration, he said, of seismic work, the drilling of four wells to 20,000 feet and an investment of $122 million, approximately 8.8 billion pesos, the EXXON Company has reached the conclusion that it has discovered, through the four wells drilled in Arauca, a recoverable reserve of 3.1 million barrels. The cost of a barrel of oil extracted from these wells will be much higher than the international cost of oil. Unfortunately, that is what happens in this industry. Sometimes one loses; other times one wins. This discovery, on the basis of which many Colombians dreamed of seeing the country become self-sufficient in oil, has only been an illusion, the mines minister said.

SPOKESMAN ON REASONS FOR HURTADO TRIP TO U.S.

PA121258 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The national economy, technical assistance, commerce and culture will be the topics broached by President Hurtado in his talks with his U.S. counterpart, Ronald Reagan, and Secretary of State George Shultz during Hurtado's official visit to the United States on 6-8 April. This was announced today by Government House spokesman Ernesto Alban Gomez.

[Begin Alban recording] The president's trip to the United States has several objectives. Naturally, first the president will talk with the President of the United States and with the secretary of state about bilateral matters that are of primary interest to the two countries in the commercial, economic and financial, technical assistance and cultural areas, and so forth, important matters like that which recently came up with the Panama Canal tolls, about which the Ecuadorean Government has already expressed its position. Similarly, this is a very important opportunity for the Ecuadorean president to inform the U.S. Government of the viewpoints of a democratic Latin American government regarding the continent's present situation, of the repercussions that the economic crisis has on our government and our people, and especially the impact that this economic crisis can have on Latin American democracy. As you very well know, the panorama of Latin American democracy is fraught with difficulties, dangers and risks. It is very opportune for the Ecuadorean president to outline his viewpoints and apprise the U.S. Government of this situation.

The president will also take advantage of his trip to the United States to promote his initiative regarding joint action by Latin American governments and peoples to face up to the economic crisis. For this reason, he will take advantage of his visit to the United States to address the OAS and to meet with the Latin American representatives at the United Nations, in order to pursue this effort, which he considers necessary for the Latin American countries to jointly resolve their economic problems.

The president will also take advantage of this trip to meet with representatives of the financial sector, primarily of the oil companies, to outline to them the country's position regarding oil legislation and the possibilities of investment in the oil industry in Ecuador and, of course, to outline Ecuador's economic situation to them, since despite all its difficulties, Ecuador offers very favorable opportunities for productive investment. Therefore, in brief, this would be the group of objectives that make this trip to the United States essential. [end recording]

MINISTRY APPLAUDS U.S. CLAIM TO 200-MILE LIMIT

PA121649 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Referring to Ronald Reagan's unilateral position on U.S. rights over the natural resources in 200 miles of its coastal waters and seabed, the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry has said that the U.S. President's announcement claiming territorial sovereignty over a 200-mile area recognizes the rightness of the claims of the countries that are members of the Permanent System of the South Pacific [Sistema Permanente del Pacifico Sur]: The Foreign Ministry said that President Reagan's announcement is a reaffirmation of the rights specified in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea after a 15-year struggle by developing coastal countries to defend their marine resources. For 40 years Ecuador has firmly maintained this position.

OIL OUTPUT CUT BY ABOUT ONE QUARTER

FL111415 Bridgetown CANA in English 1258 GMT 11 Mar 83

[By Walker Simon]

[Text] Mexico City, March 11, CANA-REUTER -- Hit by a weakening oil market, Mexico has slashed its crude output by about one-quarter and prolonged the country's debilitating hard currency shortage. Industry analysts said today that Mexico, the world's fourth biggest oil producer, exported about 1.2 million barrels per day (BPD) in February, down from around 1.6 million BPD in January and December.

The government has publicly issued no export figures since last year, but analysts said that exports have continued to drop through March as the world's refiners hold off buying crude because they expect prices to fall. "There seems to have little tanker movement so far this month out of Pajaritos (the major Mexican oil port)," one well-informed analyst said.

The Energy Ministry says Mexico, a non-OPEC member, will likely delay any price cut until other major producers post theirs. But analysts say Mexico's stance, part of a new campaign to coordinate policies with major oil exporters, could be a reason the country has lost customers.

One Mexican expert said part of February's crude shipments may have even diverted to Curacao for storage, a move which implies actual February export sales were below 1.2 million BPD. Because crude accounts for about three-quarters of total exports, any cut in sales dries up Mexico's limited pool of hard currency and deepens its acute dollar shortage, financial analysts said.

After servicing Mexico's 80-billion-dollar foreign debt and buying food abroad, the government lacks enough dollars to meet all private industries requests to pay for essential raw material imports, Finance Minister Jesus Silva Herzog said on Monday. Countless Mexican factories are already running at barely half capacity due to the dollar shortage, according to Manuel Clouthier, president of the Business Coordinating Council. "Mexico is living hand to mouth because of its low reserves," one western diplomat said, citing the Central Bank's refusal to disclose its reserves over the past 10 months.

Under its economic adjustment programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mexico has pledged to replenish its depleted currency reserves this year by two billion dollars -- a target financial analysts see as difficult. Mexico must meet the terms of its three-year IMF pact to draw 4.6 billion dollars in fresh credits this year from commerical banks and 2.6 billion in IMF loans by 1985. These funds represent most of the new credits currently pledged to Mexico. The difficulty in fulfilling the currency reserves requirement, financial analysts say, will be aggravated by Mexico's widely expected oil price cut. Each dollar drop would lop an estimated 550 million dollars off Mexico's projected export income. The prospect has prompted U.S. officials, including Treasury Under-Secretary Beryl Sprinkel, to warn that a drastic oil price drop might force Mexico to renegotiate the terms of its IMF pact. The easiest aspect in the complicated IMF pact to revise is the pledge to boost currency reserves, a Western diplomat said: He said that an oil price drop of more than four dollars might force the IMF to release Mexico from any requirement to increase reserves.

A steeper oil price drop, foreign bankers said, might force Mexico to seek new loans from foreign banking institutions. The IMF has placed a ceiling of five billion dollars this year in new private bank borrowing -- a limit already reached in principle with Mexico' signing last week of a "jumbo" loan for that amount. In the event of a sharp price drop, foreign bankers said, Mexico's first hurdle in seeking more loans would be to persuade the IMF to raise the borrowing limit. The second would be to convince bankers, now reluctant, to lend it more funds. However a diplomat closely following financial developments said that: "Bankers will throw more money in here if it is a matter of keeping the country afloat."

A finance ministry spokesman, Ramiro Pineda, said he had no information about plans to renegotiate the IMF pact should there be a drastic oil price drop.

CUSTOMS MATTERS DISCUSSED WITH FRANCE 10 MAR

FL111251 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0540 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Jacques Campet, France's general director of customs, met with Jesus Silva Herzog, secretary of finance and public credit, today. The French official, who is also president of the Council for Customs Cooperation with headquarters in Brussels, told Silva Herzog that the European members of the council have confidence in Mexico. A communique issued by the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat reported that Campet had previously met with his Mexican counterpart General Director of Customs Javier Garduno Parez. During these talks Campet and Garduno Perez discussed the need to increase the exchange in the areas of training and information and to compare trade, financial and exchange control policy experience among other matters.

LABOR LEADER CRITICIZES U.S., PRAISES PRI

PA131800 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Mar 83 pp 4A, 19M

[Excerpt] Fidel Velazquez, leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], said yesterday that the statements by Thomas Enders and other U.S. officials to the effect that Mexico is going toward communism are ridiculous.

"In the United States, more than in any other country, they are sure that Mexico is not going communist. They are perfectly familiar with the ideology of the Mexican Revolution and the actual form of our government. They recognize that we Mexicans are not fond of that ideological current," stressed the CTM leaders.

It isn't possible to believe the reports disseminated in our neighbor to the north that the Soviet Union is trying to destabilize Mexico, he added.

Fidel Velazquez made these comments when he was interviewed yesterday after the ceremony commemorating the 54th anniversary of the PRI. He said that the PRI "will not waste away because it is not like a bar of soap."

He described the PRI as "the only important party in the country" and the only party that responds to the circumstances in Mexico.

VISITING NORWEGIAN VICE MINISTER ON OIL PRICES

FL120145 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Norway's Commerce Vice Minister Nitte Kongshem has stressed that her country, an important oil-exporting country, rejects a price war of hydrocarbons. We would like to see stability in the oil market, she said prior to departure for her country after an official visit during which Norway's commerical relations with Mexico were examined. A price war would be counterproductive for developing oil-producing countries. She stated.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO USSR ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

PA120054 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Mar 83 p 4A, 29A

[By EXCELSIOR correspondent Hernan Rodriguez M.]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar -- Economist Horacio Flores de la Pena, the new Mexican ambassador to the Kremlin, arrived in Moscow today. Prior to his new post, Flores de la Pena was Mexico's ambassador to France. The arrival of Flores de la Pena in the USSR is viewed with interest in this capital. Top Soviet Foreign Ministry officials have told the author of this article that they consider him a progressive man who will promote relations between Mexico and the USSR in every aspect. EXCELSIOR has learned unofficially that there is disagreement among high spheres of Soviet diplomacy because Mexican ambassadors prior to Flores de la Pena remained in their diplomatic posts for only a short time. Jorge Diaz Serrano stayed in his post only 4 months, and Gustavo Romero Kolbeck was Mexican ambassador for less than a year.

A Mexican Embassy spokesman provided us with a brief biography of Ambassdor Horacio Flores de la Pena, in which the most important aspects are that he was secretary of the national patrimony from 1970 until 75, president of the Economic Investigation and Education Center from 1975 until 77 and Mexican ambassador to France from 1978 until his appointment as Mexican ambassador to Moscow. Soviet authorities have given special importance to the fact that the new ambassador was director of the Economy School at the UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico], which the USSR Academy of Sciences considers as one of the most advanced educational institutions in the American continent. This reporter has learned that he will deliver his credentials to the prime minister, and that he will undoubtedly be received be Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko soon.

JUDGE DISMISSES BANK NATIONALIZATION CASE

FL111555 Bridgetown CANA in English 1200 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, March 11, CANA-REUTER -- A Mexican federal judge has dismissed a claim by former bankers that the government had no right to nationalise private banks last September, the Finance Ministry said yesterday. A ministry statement said the judge decided Wednesday that the government had a "legitimate" right to turn over private stocks to public hands. The bankers had contested the government's action on the basis of a federal law regulating banking services and credit which they said ruled out nationalisation. Former President Jose Lopez Portillo nationalised domestic private banks last September to stop what he said was the bank's role in aiding the flight of capital from the country. Two months later the legislature incorporated the bank nationalisation move into the constitution and made it irreversible.

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZED -- Acapulco, 9 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- A shipment of opium valued at 300 million pesos on the black market and bound for the United States has been discovered by authorities, Jorge Castillo del Rey announced. Santiago Cortes Gonzalez and Roberto Cortes Marqueza, part of a 12-member band of drug traffickers, were arrested at a laboratory located in the town of Tlacotepec in Tierra Caliente. Besides the opium gum, authorities seized high-powered weapons and ammunition, drug processing equipment and a station wagon with Guerrero state tags. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0443 GMT 10 Mar 83 FL]

DRAFT OF ARTICLE 2 OF CONSTITUTION DISCLOSED

PA122023 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Report by Rene Hernandez direct from the La Siesta Hotel where the Constitutional Reform Commission is meeting -- live]

[Text] The Constitutional Reform Commission is in continuous session in the Bayano Room of the La Siesta Hotel in Tocumen corregimiento. This morning the reform commission unanimously approved the draft of Article 2, which has been completely rewritten.

The draft Article 2, which will be presented to the president along with the other proposed reforms to later go on to a referendum, reads as follows:

Article 2. Public power comes only from the people. It is exercised by the state, as established by this Constitution, through the legislative, executive and judicial branches, which operate in a limited and separate fashion, but in harmonious cooperation.

This was Article 2 as approved this morning by the Constitutional Reform Commission. According to a Reform Commission source, this article is practically a word-for-word copy of the 1946 Constitution.

DRAFT AMENDMENT ON LEGISLATURE APPROVED

PA131936 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1532 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Official communique issued by the Constitutional Reform Commission and signed by commission President Dr Jorge Fabrega Ponce; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] During last night's session at the La Siesta Hotel, where the members of the Constitutional Reform Commission have been meeting since Thursday, it was agreed to issue the following communique:

1. The legislative branch will consist of a body known as the Legislative Assembly; its members will be nominated by the political parties and will be elected by direct popular vote.

2. The assembly will be formed by a member for each province, one for the San Blas Indian territory and one for a Guaymi Indian territory which is going to be created by a law decree.

There will also be additional members at the rate of 1 for each 30,000 inhabitants or portion thereof, according to the latest census. They will be elected according to the requirements and the proportional voting system established by the law. There will also be up to 20 national legislators

3. Each legislator will have two alternates.

4. The legislators will be elected for 5-year terms. The elections will occur on the same days that ordinary elections are held for president and vice president of the republic.

There will be two 8-month periods [as heard] of sessions each year, divided into 2 legislative sessions of 4 months each.

ENDERS' DEFENSE OF CANAL ARGUMENT REJECTED

PA122202 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 6

[From "The Cover" column by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] It is becoming increasingly common to read or hear the rantings and ravings of some American officials about U.S. Central American policy. Some days ago, Mr Thomas Enders even tried to justify the request for more millions to buy arms "on the basis of a more secure Panama Canal." However, the fewer armaments around the Panama Canal the safer it is. By dismantling all the military bases in the region we will be able to live in peace.

STATION OPPOSES TRAINING FOREIGN TROOPS AT CANAL

PA120336 Panama City Circuito RPC-Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Mar 83

[By Harmodio Icaza from "Nine O'Clock News" program]

[Text] In defense of his military aid program for El Salvador, the U.S. President has announced that his government intends to train Salvadoran troops, not on U.S. territory but in Panama, at Fort Sherman. Apparently, President Reagan thinks this is a farm for his personal use or else he has just not read the treaties.

To better illustrate this, we refer to Article 3, of Annex B, Paragraph A, of the treaty, which states: The Republic of Panama authorize the United States to use and maintain the areas of military coordination for the purposes of the Panama Canal treaty.

To train Salvadoran troops here has nothing to do with the canal treaty.

Paragraph B states: There will be no changes in the nature and basic functions of the areas of military coordination, except through mutual consent by the forces of the Republic of Panama and the United States, through the joint committee or conforming to Article 4 of this agreement.

Furthermore, Article 4, Paragraph A of Annex B, says: The areas of military coordination for training, identified in Annex A of this agreement, will be at the disposal of the forces of the Republic of Panama and the United States, for training purposes.

As you can see, there is nothing in the treaties that empowers President Reagan to determine the training in Panama of troops of nationalities other than those of the United States. The announcement, besides being presumptuous, is compromising.

PRD URGES REMOVAL OF CHIRIQUI GOVERNOR

PA122012 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[By Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] Several sectors in Chiriqui Province, particularly the members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, led by Prof Denis Arce, have demanded either the resignation or removal of the provincial governor. According to the PRD members in Chiriqui, Governor Dario Santamaria was recently accomodating toward the interventionist position of U.S. Ambassador in Panama Everett Briggs on issues that are strictly of Panamanian concern.

So far, the request for the governor's resignations or removal has been "quietly" promoted, but the PRD members are reportedly "on alert in case there is another instance of bowing to foreign interests." Although General Paredes recently declared the matter "canceled," the PRD members, provincial directorate and rank and file leaders in Chiriqui a few days ago issued a resolution expressing full support of General Paredes for "contributing with civic responsibility, to the maintainance of a climate of peace and tranquility, while preserving vigilance on behalf of the national security."

Further on in its document, the Chiriqui charter of the PRD stresses that "our party and its 30,000 members in the province repudiate the U.S. ambassador's provocative actions in our country."

PAPER ON DISPERSAL OF WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION

PA042235 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 83 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Dramatically illustrating our country's sad reality, the National Guard's antiriot forces violently dispersed a peaceful demonstration of mothers who were protesting in front of the Education Ministry over their problems in enrolling their children in various official schools. The mothers demanding schools for their children located near their homes are right, as acknowledged by the ministry itself when it asked these humble women for "understanding." The public force, however, showed them no understanding. Year after year it is the same problem, with the ministry evidently unable to create a rational enrollment system guaranteeing enrollment for every student in a school near his home. But it is completely inadmissible for the National Guard to disperse a legitimate protest demonstration by defenseless women worried over their children's education by means of unnecessary and brutal violence that in no way honors either the public force or those commanding it. The indiscriminate use of force to confront the expressions of social dissatisfaction, instead of resorting to intelligence to eliminate its cause, creates rancor among the people, and this might have dangerous consequences. As an old saying warns us, those who sow the winds invariably reap storms. In the seeds of the current feverish sowing, one can already discern the future storms that will break over our homeland.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT MONGE OFFERS SITE FOR SALVADORAN TALKS

PA111635 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has said that our country has been offered as territory to negotiate peace between the Salvadoran Government and its political opponents. Monge has personally made the proposal to Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana on the two occasions on which they have met in the past few months. The idea is to use Costa Rican territory for talks between leaders of the political opposition and representatives of the Salvadoran Government, in an effort to find a way leading to the pacification of that sister country, said President Monge.

In the desire to help find a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran political problem, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez has served as mediator in taking letters from opposition leaders to Magana's government. On at least two occasions during the past 3 months, Volio Jimenez has taken letters from political leaders opposed to the Salvadoran Government. Although it has not been completely confirmed, it was learned that the letters were sent by Social Democrat [as heard] Guillermo Ungo and Social Christian [as heard] Ruben Zamora. The letters have not been disclosed.

Our country is willing to do everything possible to help achieve peace in Central America, especially in El Salvador, which is why it has proposed to President Magana that talks be initiated here.

President Monge said that although he has not received a positive reply from President Alvaro Magana, his offer has not been rejected.

In addition, Monge feels that if contacts begin between the Salvadoran Government and its political opponents, this would open the possibility for a solution to the conflict in that country.

PRESIDENT MONGE INTERVIEWED ON REGION'S PROBLEMS

PA131820 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Mar 83 pp 1A, 23 A

[Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Jaime Duran]

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 1 Mar -- President Luis Alberto Monge said today that "The San Jose oil treaty, an example to the world, is a model of solidarity and of constructive, positive and fraternal relations among the Latin American nations, and it may be adjusted by Mexico and Venezuela as a result of fluctuating prices."

In front of the swimming pool at his home, dressed in a guayabera shirt, President Monge said that "relations between Mexico and Costa Rica have never been and will never be strained, because they are relations between two brother peoples and we greatly need Mexico's traditional understanding and cooperation in all areas."

The president said that "as far as the oil treaty is concerned, we would have liked other oil-producing nations, like those of the Middle East, to have imitated Mexico and Venezuela, but that was not the case."

The president said that "putting aside internal discrepancies over electoral matters, all Costa Ricans are grateful for Mexico's generous agreement with the countries of the area, which shows so much solidarity and is so unusual." He said that "Costa Rica receives 16,000 barrels of crude a day and assistance from the Mexican Petroleum Institute for research and exploration in Puerto Limon."

The president said that "this agreement will be maintained if Mexico and Venezuela maintain it, despite their economic and balance of payments difficulties. Of course, we would be very pleased for it to be continued and now there is talk of a price adjustment because of the OPEC reductions. If that reduction becomes generalized, we would be very happy to revise it [the San Jose oil agreement]

The Costa Rican president said: "I have not yet officially invited President de la Madrid to come to Costa Rica, but he has several messages from me in which I say that I would be happy for him to come to my country." He added that "whenever he can come, he will always be welcomed here."

Solutions Through Dialogue

Returning to the subject of Mexico, the Costa Rican president said that "there has been misinformation and even informational terrorism, because we have always been and we continue to be in favor of seeking political solutions through dialogue to the problem of El Salvador and we have reiterated our support for the efforts of Mexico and Venezuela in this regard. Even at the much maligned meeting held here in San Jose in October (the forum for peace) Costa Rica made a statement reiterating its support for Mexico and Venezuela." He repeated that "the Costa Rican people support Mexico's peace-making efforts wherever they are made."

Regarding the tension between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Monge said that "this has been hitting me hard in the last few weeks. I spoke with common friends of the Sandinist government and told them that these attacks were raising a hysteric wave of dangerous anticommunism; their attacks are used by virulent extreme rightist groups to stir up the Costa Rican people."

He added that "the meeting to pacify Central America could be initiated any time, perhaps in Santo Domingo, with representatives of Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, in addition to those of Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela. We will not veto any country. We will go wherever we are asked to go, to any country, in order to achieve this ideal of peace."

He reaffirmed that "we have great need for Mexico. Here we have a great love for Mexico. Those who are hostile toward Mexico and the PRI are few. Our people receive any action to increase our social, cultural, political and economic relations with great sympathy."

He spoke of the "important Mexican investors that are worried about these skirmishes -- more in the newspapers than anywhere else -- that have occurred between our countries. [Quotation marks as published]

He said that "Costa Rica will play a more significant role in Central America's peace effort as a result of the pope's visit, who brings a message of hope and of confidence that the problems of violence and terrorism will be solved through freedom and social justice."

He then spoke of "the international campaign that the enemies of order and freedom have unleashed against Costa Rica through the committee of solidarity with the political prisoners of Costa Rica, who are only trying to destabilize my government by presenting me as a vassal or employee of the United States."

He said, "I am being accused of being the aggressor against Nicaragua when we don't even have an army or arms. We do not have the slightest militaristic inclination. I have also been labeled as an enemy of Mexico and I am neither, only a democrat dedicated to peace who desires harmony among the peoples, regardless of their political or ideological ideals."

He emphasized: "I am not an instrument of U.S. foreign policy and our relations with Washington, which are certainly very good, do not imply a commitment to attack Nicaragua."

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT MAGANA REJECTS MONGE MEDIATION OFFER

PA112017 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1758 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge's offer to mediate in finding peace in El Salvador merits sympathy, but cannot be accepted by the government of President Alvaro Magana, according to an official Salvadoran spokesman.

"We have nothing to negotiate. There is nothing to talk about," Salvadoran Press Secretary Alfonso Salazar said in response to a question over the telephone from the evening newspaper LA PRENSA LIBRE.

In today's edition, the newspaper reported that Salazar agreed that Monge's offer certainly merited sympathy, but that "President Alvaro Magana has already defined the path to be followed in El Salvador, which is the electoral path."

Salazar said that during the pope's visit to El Salvador last week "President Magana announced that he would call general elections before 31 December this year." According to the spokesman, the electoral process is the most appropriate formula for the people to decide their future.

The official added that Magana's offer included a "general amnesty for the insurgents" which had been greeted favorably by the Salvadoran political parties.

"We have offered the guerrillas participation in the elections so that they can freely join the country's normal life," Salazar stated. He also indicated that President Magana "has committed himself to restoring constitutionality in the country," because although a legally elected government exists there now, it is temporary.

The Costa Rican president has met secretly in the past few months with delegates of all the parties in the Salvadoran conflict, with the aim of initiating a dialogue that will be conducive to a political solution of the problem of that country, and has offered Costa R'can territory to hold such negotiations.

DEFENSE MINISTER GARCIA HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA120221 San Salvador Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Report on news conference at the office of the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador on 11 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Garcia] I would like to refer to the statements made yesterday by U.S. President Reagan. All of you are familiar with those statements and, of course, they are tremendously important to us.

I would like to say that, according to our analysis, President Reagan's statements were profound and truly knowledgeable because, by virtue of the very position he holds, he naturally senses, understands and knows about El Salvador's reality. These are the fundamental reasons why the U.S. President outlined in his speech the tremendous reality we have experienced and are experiencing.

As a military institution, and also due to our knowledge of the circumstances within the Salvadoran Armed Forces, we recognize in President Reagan's speech his insight, high sense of responsibility and absolute knowledge about El Salvador's overall situation.

I would like to mention another aspect: According to the U.S. President and all other persons who are sponsoring the aid that has been mentioned in the last few days, we Salvadorans are dutybound to react positively and make this likely aid materialize. In the case of the armed forces, I feel that now, and once and for all, we should be the first to help make this aid a reality. How? By knowing how to fight. How? By knowing how to act. How? By being aware that all of us, from the highest-ranking officer to the most humble corporal in the armed forces, are capable of winning this war that has been imposed on us and that, consequently, we must [words indistinct]. By this I mean that we must be thoroughly aware of the respect, laws and conditions under which this struggle must develop. Unfortunately for us, the men in uniform we are the ones who are at a disadvantage regarding the way in which it is developing because the others can do as they please and the world does not care.

However, because of our profession, convictions and feelings, we, the men in uniform, are profoundly obliged to respect what we generally know as human life. We must know the meaning of abuse and of anything that runs counter to the nature and character of the man in uniform.

We have made efforts, are making efforts and with all the more reason should make even greater efforts to maintain an attitude of [word indistinct] respect for human rights. I think this is the way every man in uniform must behave at this moment and I am sure, absolutely sure, that all our comrades-in-arms are going precisely in this direction.

Therefore, we want to make an explanation today about the death of Michael Cline on 13 October. He was a U.S. citizen who died in Morazan Department. Based on an armed forces investigation, we have reached the conclusion that members of our institution who testified at the time -- one noncommissioned officer and two corporals -- lied, and we have concluded on the basis of the respective investigation that there are very good reasons to make a deeper investigation to serve justice. We are thoroughly convinced that our institution can win this struggle in a clean way, too.

This means that arrest warrants have been issued against these three persons, that they have been arrested and that they will be sent to the civilian authorities for an investigation and, above all, for justice to be served. When we talk about justice we refer to justice in general because we are fully convinced that we would be completely mistaken if justice were not fully enforced everywhere and in every case in which it is sought in El Salvador. This is one of the reasons why we are today bent on enforcing justice. All members of our institution have been warned that this has been, is and will continue to be our goal because we are completely convinced that it is by acting with justice that we can enjoy freedom and be able to act correctly.

I would also like to mention an important factor that has gained momentum at a national and international level. I am referring to the presidential elections to be held in our country before the end of the year. We would like to say in this regard, once more, that we are prepared, as we were in the elections of 7 March 1982, to guarantee these elections. As was the case on that occasion, we can say so because we have the moral authority of not having any political commitment to anyone. This means that we have [words indistinct] moral authority that allows us to make these statements. The armed forces will continue to play their role of watchdogs and will continue to be independent so Salvadorans can elect their rulers freely and honestly. This is a solemn statement we make today. Naturally, this entails a moral commitment that is not only words. We said so the last time and complied, even though some did not believe we would. [end recording]

[So said Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, Salvadoran defense and public security minister. He said also that Col Francisco Adolfo Castillo, former deputy minister captured by the guerrillas, spoke under psychological pressure when he said that the rebels are winning the war.

Garcia dismissed the statements by the colonel, who was captured by the insurgents on 17 June 1982, that were broadcast by Radio Venceremos last night.

Castillo said the guerrillas are winning the war and the armed forces are in danger. He denounced the Honduran Army's participation in the armed conflict in this country and described the Salvadoran Armed Forces high command as corrupt. He also complained that he has not been exchanged for captured rebels.

General Garcia asserted that Colonel Castillo has not been abandoned by the armed forces, as he said last night. We have appealed to human rights organizations to rescue him, but they have done nothing thus far, the defense minister said. We respect Colonel Castillo's attitude as our comrade-in-arms and understand the pressures to which he has been subjected, he added, saying that the armed forces are prepared for anything Castillo may say because the subversives had taken long to exploit him, as a matter of fact.

When asked what would happen if a humanitarian organization contacted the guerrillas and an exchange of prisoners were demanded to release Castillo, Garcia said this would not be the proper mechanism for us. Colonel Castillo has been kidnapped by illegal armed groups and therefore we cannot accept this type of proceeding, but we are prepared to look for other alternatives. He would not say things in his normal condition, Garcia said during a news conference held this morning at the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters.

More on News Conference

PA112358 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Mar 83

[News Conference with Salvadoran Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia in his Defense Ministry office in San Salvador on 11 March -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Question] Is the armed forces prepared to accept a peace force in El Salvador for the coming elections, and would this include FDR participation?

[Answer] I can frankly say that we don't need troops. We have already made evident our ability to guarantee the elections. Regarding observers, or any other international mechanism to supervise and verify the elections, I believe that other administration sectors have to decide this. What we want are free and honest elections.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] No. We would not accept troops other than our country's as the guarantors. I think we have the capability and the dignity to establish respectful conditions and guarantees. We have demonstrated that we can do it.

[Question] General, lately there have been rumors about [words indistinct] Costa Rican President Monge has offered to mediate between the FDR and the Salvadoran Government. Is this true?

[Answer] The word dialogue comes up again. That word has been analyzed by his holiness the pope, by President Reagan and, of course, by us, by President Magana. We and the armed institution have been clear in saying that we cannot talk behind the people's back.

The only alternative the rebels have.... [changes thought] I repeat again, this alternative should be seriously considered because it is logical and both nationally and internationally acceptable. Therefore, I believe that dialogue has been completely set aside in favor of the other alternative, which is a true dialogue, the dialogue of the people at the polls, and this is the truly valid dialogue.

The only thing we will say to the rebels is to take this situation seriously, and that instead of engaging in violence they should go to the polls and participate in order to learn the people's attitude.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I will repeat what I have said on other occasions. Today is 11 March and I am still not thinking about that. Last time I told you that for a situation like that there has to be either a political party -- and I don't belong to any political party -- or an offer to participate. So far, we have received no offer.

[Question] [Words indistinct] more military aid. How is the war going?

[Answer] We need military aid because of the situation involved in this struggle. We can touch on an important subject that sometimes we have difficulty explaining. It has been said that we are asking for help because we are losing the war. I am thoroughly aware of the situation, and I want to say that we are winning the war. You may ask youself; if they are winning the war, why do they ask for aid? The answer is that we the military men are not thinking about the present but about the immediate future. We are also thinking about the aid that the subversives are receiving daily from their base in Nicaragua, which represents complete and total aid for the subversives.

We, as armed forces professionals who are aware of the problem and know how to wage this war, are also interested in guaranteeing the future. A war means loss of materiel, equipment, etc. We must take this fact into account.

Therefore, we believe that the aid is necessary to prevent future actions by the subversives, who continuously receive support. I want to say specifically and clearly that we are winning the war. Any of you could ask to talk about the [words indistinct] that could occur. However, remember that the subversives said almost 2 years ago that the armed forces would collapse within 3 months and a new type of government would be established in El Salvador. That was said over 2 years ago and here is the Salvadoran Armed Forces still responding to aggression.

Another fact: Remember that more than 2 years ago the subversives said they would establish a liberated territory in El Salvador? I can say with much satisfaction that there is no place in the country that the army has been prevented from entering after it has said that it is going there. We have gone every place we have wanted to go and nothing has prevented us from doing so. Wars and struggles are won by conquering. And the subversives have not been able to conquer anything but defenseless towns they have seized for propaganda purposes. There are Berlin, Perquin and other towns you know about.

I want to say that the aid is necessary, and therefore we find that the personal decision of the U.S. President is timely. I say this with complete knowledge of the situation, deeply knowing the true situation and aware of the danger we are facing.

We will continue forward under any circumstances. We will never buy all those rumors being spread, especially in our country. Those rumors mean negative actions. For example, there is the rumor that we are losing the war, that we are not fighting the right way, etc. These rumors are aimed at confusing nations and foreigners alike.

I want to tell you that we do know how to fight this war, but we need the means. A statement to which I always refer and which has great meaning for us is very suitable at this moment. It was said by Winston Churchill during World War II when he had great needs: Give us the means and we will do the work.

El Salvador is not Vietnam. We cannot apply to El Salvador what was applied in Vietnam. This is El Salvador and we act in accordance with our country's needs.

[Question] [words indistinct] President Reagan, could the Salvadoran Armed Forces maintain the advantage?

[Answer] Yes, it could, but I could not tell you for how long because we would be at a disadvantage if the subversives continue receiving unconditional support. You can be sure that we, in line with the constitutional mandate and our duty, will continue defending the Salvadoran people's interests under any circumstances. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER NOTES IMPORTANCE OF U.S. AID

PA122353 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Mar 83 pp 5, 32

[Excerpts] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena has stated that "the economic and military aid that the United States is giving us at this moment is special and important because it allows us to continue the democratic process and to seek a political solution to the conflict." Chavez Mena said this upon being asked for his opinion about the $110 million U.S. aid increase proposal presented by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to his country's Congress.

Regarding newly appointed Salvadoran ambassadors to the United States and the OAS, the foreign minister said "no appointment has yet been made. We are waiting for a placet from the U.S. Government. New ambassadores would replace Ernesto Rivas Gallont and Ernesto Arrieta Peralta, who was ambassador to the OAS and who will go to Colombia as ambassador.

Foreign Minister Chavez was askec about a possible meeting of Central American foreign ministers, as proposed by Venezuela. "The foreign ministers of Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador are consulting each other about future meetings to analyze proposals to secure peace in the region," Chavez Mena said.

Envoy to U.S. Leaving Post

PA131840 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1818 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Ernesto Rivas Gallont, Salvadoran ambassador to the United States, will soon leave his post, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena stated last night.

Queried by reporters about the position of the ambassador, who was harshly criticized by rightwing groups several months ago because of his close association wuth the moderate Christian Democrats, Chavez Mena replied: "In a few days he will be withdrawn, probably to resume his private activities." The post of ambassador to Washington is of vital importance to the Salvandoran Government, which is surviving thanks to U.S. economic and military assistance to finance its war against the leftwing guerrillas.

D'AUBUISSON URGES FDR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

PA120030 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2331 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 11 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Roberto d'Aubuisson, the most prominent rightwing leader in El Salvador, requested the participation of leftist guerrillas leaders in the presidential elections scheduled for December.

"We are seeking the FDR's participation in the upcoming elections so that they are open to all the political groups without exception," D'Aubuisson said last night to a group of businessmen.

Nevertheless, D'Aubuisson -- president of the 60-seat Constituent Assembly -- did not mention the establishment of guarantees for the leftists so they may participate in the elections.

Responding to discreet U.S. pressure, President Alvaro Magana announced on Sunday that the presidential elections would take place before the end of the year, thus advancing them from the previous deadline, March 1984.

Salvadoran political analysts believe D'Aubuisson's conciliatory gesture towards the FDR was caused both by his desire to improve his image with the U.S. Government and the fervent wish to have the leftists participate in the elections. According to local diplomatic sources, Washington's pressures are based on the belief that premature elections will favor the Christian Democrats' chances.

With U.S. support, that party obtained the highest individual number of votes for Constituent Assembly seats a year ago, but the control of that organization was left in the hands of a coalition of rightwing parties headed by the Republican Nationalist Alliance, Arena, which D'Aubuisson heads.

Arena is engaged in an open conflict with Washington, which is blamed for openly interfering in El Salvador's domestic affairs. In an apparent attempt to heal wounds, D'Aubuisson last night told his listeners -- mainly comprised of rightists -- that "our country has grave problems, but we have friends in Washington and we must exert ourselves to collabroate with those who assist us."

More on Elections

PA120105 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Interview with Constituent Assembly President Major Roberto d'Aubuisson -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Question] Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, as president of the Constituent Assembly, what is your opinion about the Peace Commission's visit?

[Answer] It is the most positive result so far of the Apaneca pact. It is urgent that the Peace Commission start [word indistinct] and it seems to me [words indistinct] to exchange opinions. It has been eminently peaceful. I met with them a month ago during the dinner at the [words indistinct] and we are willing to support them here.

[Question] The president made a statement and announced that the 1984 presidential elections would be advanced. As a member of a political party such as the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, what is your opinion about advancing these elections to December?

[Answer] Very positive. It was also our party's positior after analyzing this situation [words indistinct] reaching an agreement through consensus. We believe it is necessary to hold a presidential election as soon as possible [words indistinct] series of situations, especially in the economic sector. This has not been carried out adequately due to the special circumstances that surround this government, which comprises several political parties. It is time for the Salvadoran people to be democratized because [words indistinct] and economic recovery, establish the conditions to discuss the subject of peace [words indistinct]. The elections are necessary to change the de facto government we (?now) have. However, the best way to implement this is through elections. Remember that the main activity of the political parties is the democratization process, and we must continue on this path.

[Question] The country's main problem is currently armed struggle. Much has been said about holding elections at the end of this year, and the FMLN spokesman stated that their organization will not participate because they do not believe in the honesty of these elections. What is your opinion of their position?

[Answer] They have never participated in a democratic event because the FMLN is a totalitarian organization. [words indistinct] Organizations that support the FMLN can participate independently. Who will stop them? However, the FMLN [passage indistinct] [end recording]

D'AUBUISSON SAYS NEW CONSTITUTION ALMOST READY

PA122236 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 3

[Excerpts] Constituent Assembly President Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson announced last night that the new constitution will be completed by 22 April at the latest. He said that discussion of the final chapter, on the economic system, will begin next week.

D'Aubuisson said he agrees with the holding of elections since it is necessary to have a constitutional president in the country as soon as possible and to know what the rules of the game for next year will be.

D'Aubuisson said he wants to congratulate President Magana because he is doing many things that the Nationalist Republican Alliance recommended in its political platform. D'Aubuisson cited as proof the creation of human rights commissions and the peace policy. He said that the only thing that shows no specific results is the economic policy.

D'Aubuisson then opened the question and answer period. He was asked whether it is true that Jose Napoleon Duarte and Jose Chavez Mena will be the Christian Democratic party's presidential candidates. He answered that it is not up to him to answer that.

FDR OFFICIAL CRITICIZES REAGAN AID PROPOSAL

PA111432 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1123 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 11 Mar (EFE) -- President Ronald Reagan's request for an increase in U.S. military aid to El Salvador is "very dangerous," members of the Salvadoran opposition have said in Mexico. Hector Oqueli, member of the FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, told EFE that the language used by Reagan "restores the doctrine of Monroe," who said that "America was for Americans," meaning only U.S. citizens.

In asking Congress last Thursday for an additional $67 million in aid for El Salvador, Reagan said it was necessary to find a democratic solution to the Salvadoran conflict. "It this is not approved, El Salvador will be joining Cuba and Nicaragua as base for the promotion of violence in Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica" and eventually, Mexico, the Canal and Panama will be in danger, President Reagan added.

GUATEMALA

RIOS MONTT ON END OF SIEGE, PROPOSED AMNESTY

PA140507 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0320 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Weekly address to the nation by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt -- recorded]

[Text] I thank you for giving me the opportunity to be with you again. I think that this conversation is important because one way or another it is helping us to consolidate our concept of being Guatemalan.

That in reality is the result. Do your duty and demand your rights. Carry out your responsibilities and respect those of others. The exact dimension of liberty is in direct relation to the exact fulfillment of your duty. Acknowledge the rights of others and that will be the limit of your liberty.

[Words indistinct] That I am interested in these opportunities to express my gratitude and my admiration for your conduct, and warm hospitality shown before the world on receiving John Paul II and his entourage. With this attitude you gave testimony that peace is the fruit of the spirit of your heart and not of any other type of pressure.

In spite of the thousands of persons we had to mobilize, there was an impressive order that has been recognized by locals and foreigners, and despite the speed and the number of human beings we mobilized, there were no lamentable incidents. On the contrary, there was much to praise, for example, your good sense and capacity for commitment, because thanks to your responsibility, everything came off well. Everything came off perfectly well. This is how the efforts of all kinds of authorities that had to do with the organization of this situation, that took care of the details of the preparation of John Paul II's visit saw their efforts crowned by the behavior of a people who knew how to be broadminded, by a people that knew how to be affectionate hosts, of a people that knew how to do things properly.

I am sure that you expressed yourselves as an exemplary nation and also as a group careful of its responsibilities in the face of those who may have judged you. As a showing of our identity, as a manifestation of self respect, I hope that this spirit of order, this spirit of good sense and hospitality will remain as a testimony of the good will that prompts us to be ourselves, for us to be Guatemalans, not something different. I have not forced you to do this, we have done it by our own conviction.

When we took over the government last year, we set as one of our objectives the establishment of effective, urgent measures, so that the recourse of justice would be opened to society's most neglected sectors. Coincidentally, John Paul II exhorted the people and government to exert all kinds of effort to this end, and this is doing nothing more than God's will. It is possible to say that if the government remains committed to extending justice to the people; necessary conditions will be established for this. Unfortunately, the process is lengthy and requires patience and tenacity, because this process does not constitute, is not the fruit of structural changes, but is the result of changes at all levels of man himself. The change is within you. You as Guatemalans are the only positive and decisive factor for Guatemala to change, because Guatemala is you.

It is difficult to understand that for something as subjective as the concept of justice to exist, there must be clean, honest, wise and vigorous people to impart that justice. This requires a special concept, because, consider: If a judge is immoral, the concept of fairness is distorted; consequently, the true principles of legality are ignored when he favors a person who is paying him.

However, at this time we realize that although this is subjective and difficult, although the effort is almost impossible, nevertheless in Guatemala justice is being administered in the best possible manner. You are witnesses to this.

The procedures are being revised so that they can be updated, but in the main, those who are responsible for handing down sentences are men who are practicing high principles and are assuming the great responsibility of imposing penalties and enforcing the law.

We believe that justice is not just a concept but an entire process that includes two [as heard] aspects: One is the deepest, most healthy love for the people. This is authentic interest in the well-being of the people, whoever they may be and whatever they might need.

The second concept is adequate teaching of the rules, laws and conditions that govern their relations with other people who share their nationality [word indistinct].

In the third concept is a vigorous sense of punishment for those who obtinately rebel against the authorities and harm other innocent citizens. Three concepts: love, teaching and discipline. If we love, if we teach, if we practice discipline, we will learn not to lie, not to steal and not to be abusive.

We have to reach an agreement to continue taking these steps. We have to seek reconciliation. There has been too much pain and too much injustice among us for too long. However, we have to seek reconciliation. We have to make peace and admit that all of us have been wrong. Only on these bases will we be able to begin to walk together, committed to the struggle to make Guatemala a country in which one can live in peace, with tranquillity, as everyone would like.

On 23 March, there will be a very important change, because there will no longer be a state of siege, or state of alarm, or state of anything. You will be a normal citizen here and anywhere else. The only thing we are trying to adjust is the juridical concept that comes from that type of government and the new laws that will emerge. But that is all. On 23 March, there will be an opening and that opening will be your responsibility. The freedom you enjoy will depend solely on the fulfillment of your obligations. All politicians (?will be free) to work and all people will have and will exercise their political rights.

Now, we are not so interested in a political opening and political work, nor are we very interested in states of exception. What interests us greatly is reconciliation. We are drafting an amnesty decree that will permit us to accept our responsibility. We, the government, know and understand that we have sinned, that we have abused power and we want to reconcile ourselves with the people. We ask you to also be reconciled with us, because only between you and us will we be able to make a strong Guatemala.

You are aware that all the powers are helping the other powers. We are the greatest power on earth, because we have God.

We have seen that it is a matter of principle. It is not a matter of weapons or armies or policemen or votes or parties. It is a matter of God. Reconciliation is a necessity [words indistinct] amnesty. Look, you are not going to take power here with weapons. You can do it with votes, but you will not do it by force. We do not have the ideological preparation nor are the conditions right for that. Coups d'etat can be carried out and they are being fabricated and prefabricated, but that is something else. What interests us is reconciliation. Reconciliation is the fruit of peace. We know that we have endured over 20 years of civil war. [words indistinct] but we need something more important; for the people and government to be reconciled, so that hand and hand, we tell the world [words indistinct].

I wished to inform you that our economic and financial situation is bad. Some days ago, I said we are running out of foreign exchange to import gasoline. Oil is cheaper, but the way to purchase it is more expensive. In any case, appropriate efforts are being made to see what we can do. We are interested in having you know and understand that the government is not making deals with the people's taxes. Thank you very much.

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUEST RIOS MONTT MEETING

PA110433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A crisis broke out today in the State Council, advisory entity of Guatemalan President General Efrain Rios Montt, and its members have requested a special meeting with the head of state so that he may explain their real functions.

Some of the advisers said they have the impression that they are only being used in a "spectacle for public opinion consumption."

The disagreement of the advisers with the executive branch began with the recent visit of Pope John Paul II when, according to some of them, they were relegated by officials of lesser category and confined far from the sites of the ceremonies conducted by the pontiff in Guatemala.

They also pointed out that the advisers who participated in the welcoming activities for his holiness "did not comply with the wishes expressed by the council to afford the pope a warm welcome and, instead, adopted a cold, indifferent and rather disrepectful attitude."

The ministers of the Economic Cabinet later cancelled an interview with the State Council's Economic Development Committee, for which they interpret their role as merely a front.

The most important work of the council since its creation last 8 September was the presentation of a draft bill of the political and electoral laws that must be promulgated on 23 March.

Some advisers have noted that their decision to stay or resign from the State Council will depend on the functions the president assigns to them.

This organization was created upon the insistence of the political parties who made up the multiparty group (the rightist National Liberation Movement -- MLN," the "Nationalist Authentic Central -- CAN," the centrist "Nationalist Renovating Party -- PNR," and the moderate leftist "Christian Democracy-DC", to participate in the study of the political laws that would rule the return to constitutionality.

When General Rios Montt finally decided to create the State Council, the group decided not to participate "if the government did not modify the initial structure with which it was created."

The State Council was intended to be an organization of representatives of all sectors of the country that would advise the president on the interests of the Guatemalan majorities.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA RESTATES CLAIM TO ZAPOTILLO CAYS

PA101950 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Marco Tulio Romero interview with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is the Honduran position regarding the Zapotillo Cays? Do we have claims to that island territory?

[Answer] Honduras maintains its claim to the Zapotillo Cays, as is established in the Constitution. The sovereignty and border commission, known commonly as the commission on territorial studies, is conducting studies for the fatherland and working constantly on this important topic. There have been some problems, which we are trying to solve. Now we have the issue of the fishermen. We submitted a protest note to the Belize Government last week. A fisherman died there in an attack, and we are seeking mechanisms to resolve these problems. We are also making an effort to obtain their release.

[Question] There has been talk of a Belizean military garrison in those cays.

[Answer] I am not aware of the existence of any military garrison in the Zapotillo Cays.

[Question] Has the Belizean Government responded to the Foreign Secretariat protest note?

[Answer] That was the day before yesterday, and we are waiting for a reply.

[Question] Will the incidents be investigated?

[Answer] We have asked that an exhaustive investigation be made, and Honduras will take the measures appropriate to the case. For the time being, we are engaged in this meeting on border delimitation between Honduras and El Salvador.

NICARAGUA

DEFENSE MINISTER'S REACTION TO REAGAN SPEECH

PA131816 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1654 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan defense minister and head of the armed forces, declared that as a response to President Ronald Reagan, "who has reiterated his warmongering stand" these days, "we must train more militiamen to defend the revolution."

Commander Ortega, who is also chief of the Sandinist peoples militia, commented on President Reagan's recent speech asking Congress for $110 million in aid to El Salvador and $20 million more "to aid (El Salvador's) neighbors in maintaining their national security." The military leader made his statement at Managua's 19 July Plaza where this year's phase of military training of the militia's began this weekend.

Humberto Ortega said that while Reagan made his announcement, in the past weeks there has been an increase of armed actions by the Somozist forces on the northern border; however, Ortega did not reveal new details on the actions that are occurring near the Honduran border. "Today more than ever," the Sandinist military officer said, "we must strengthen the tasks of defense."

Around the middle of this week it was reported that five peasants were beheaded in San Dionisio in North Central Nicaragua, 189 km from Managua. In that same region, the Somozista staged an ambush in which three military, including a Sandinist army officer, were killed. The authorities reported that fierce combat between Somozist and army forces had resulted in the death of an undetermined number of anti-Sandinists, who infiltrated Nicaraguan territory.

The new military training period achieved the recruitment of children, adults and elderly of both sexes. The military training consists of triangulation, weapons assembly and disassembly, target practice and launching of grenades, as well as training for the defense of the city and the countryside.

BORGE COMMENTS ON U.S. AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA

PA111416 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge, dispatches from Washington report that President Reagan has announced substantial aid of $300 million for Central America -- excluding Nicaragua -- especially for weapons. What do you think of this?

[Answer] Has Congress already approved it?

[Question] He is asking Congress for this.

[Answer] We have to see if Congress approves it. I understand there are some contradictions. This follows his line and doesn't surprise us, this $300 million excluding Nicaragua. This means it will include the rest of the Central American countries and be used especially for weapons. I am not as worried about this as I am about the next year of Reagan's government, because in the same way that he is asking $300 million for Central America, he is making up his mind and adopting decisions on the fate of mankind. Therefore, let us worry about Nicaragua and the human race because this next year will probably be one of the most important years in the history of mankind. It is unbelievable, but the fate of man is at stake. The madness of the U.S. Government may lead the world to a final catastrophe. Therefore, those $300 million would be nothing more than a green piece of a devastated world in this galaxy.

HAVANA REPORTS LETTERS TO U.S. AMBASSADOR

PA092321 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has protested to the U.S. Government against the evident U.S. support to former Somozist bands coming from Honduran territory, which have killed 56 people during the past 2 months and that constantly harass the border posts of the Nicaraguan people's Army, rural settlements and coffee plantations in Nicaragua.

In two protest notes addressed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and delivered yesterday to U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry charged that Nicaragua suffered 14 airspace violations during January and February by airplanes and helicopters coming from Honduras.

Lastly, the Sandinist government reiterated its decision to continue the struggle and strengthen peace in Central America, without giving up the Nicaraguan people's right to defend their liberty, independent and territorial integrity with all the means allowed by international law.

RAMIREZ DEDICATES SCHOOLS DONATED BY CUBA

PA131925 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has dedicated three schools donated by Cuba. The schools have the capacity for 1,000 students. The Cuban and Nicaraguan education ministers, Jose Ramon Fernandez and Carlos Tunnerman, attended the inauguration ceremonies for the new schools which are in Leon, El Realejo community and El Viejo municipality.

Ramirez Mercado said that the project, which costs some $1.2 million, is part of the Cuban aid given to repair the damage caused by last May's floods in Nicaragua.

After ridiculing U.S. statements on an alleged Cuban invasion of Nicaragua, Ramirez Mercado stressed that his country has always received Cuban solidarity during the most difficult times and that proof of this is the presence of 2,000 Cuban teachers as well as 800 doctors and specialists in different areas of economy who are working all over the nation.

COMMENTATORS HIT REAGAN PROPOSAL ON SALVADOR

Television Commentary

FL111556 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1241 GMT 11 Mar 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela from the staff of the "Revista de la Manana" program and PRELA commentator Javier Rodriguez -- live]

[Text] [Fernandez Vilela] In a markedly warmongering speech, U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced a new escalation in the imperialist aggression against El Salvador by asking the U.S. Congress for $110 million in military aid to try to curb the unstoppable struggle of the Salvadoran people for their freedom.

In his speech, which reminds us of the times of the big stick and gunboat diplomacy, Reagan stated that the national security of the United States is at stake in Central America. He literally said that Central America is the United States' fourth border. He repeated his charge -- which is his alone as he is the only one who defends it -- that the reason for the Salvadoran conflict is the activity of Cuba and the USSR in the region. He again expressed opposition to any peaceful, negotiated solution. Well, Javier, this is a very interesting subject because, as I mentioned in the beginning, it represents a new escalation in the Salvadoran conflict.

[Rodriguez] I think it is interesting to analyze the speech that Reagan delivered yesterday after a previous publicity campaign which lasted many hours. As part of this camapign, U.S. radio stations kept asking Latin American stations to join them in network in order to give greater dissemination to the speech. It was a melodramatic call and a lot of propaganda was involved in it. It was said that Reagan was going to make important statements which would be of interest to Latin America and the world.

After this publicity campaign and Reagan's speech, we must reach the conclusion that his address was just a reaffirmation of the warmongering, interventionist stands of the United States in Central America and its rejection of any political solution in this area of the world.

The speech which lasted (?1/2) hour was exclusively devoted to analyzing the Central American situation and the position which the United States will continue to maintain in regard to the conflicts there and which the world is focusing on.

Reagan is trying to deceive the world. On the one hand, he says he doesn't want war and on the other, he is asking for many millions of dollars to continue. In other words, he announced yesterday that $110,050,000 will be requested to train Salvadoran regime. In addition, he asked for $20 million in emergency aid for countries in the area. These funds will be used to try to stop what he called the subversion in Central America.

He had to admit that despite everything -- in other words, despite the many millions of dollars given to El Salvador and all the political and the other kinds of aid -- the Salvadoran Government, its soldiers and U.S. advisers are losing the war in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, the people's rebellion advances and is stronger than ever.

Furthermore, Reagan announced that he will not Americanize the war.

This is the term he used. He said he will not Americanize the war in El Salvador. However, he announced an increase in the number of U.S. advisers who will be sent to El Salvador. He also announced an increase in the advisers' participation in war activities.

This means that these advisers, who have been repeatedly reported as being directly involved in combat actions, in fact, one of them was wounded recently, will not have greater freedom, with the approval of the U.S. Government, to go the areas of combat and directly participate in the fighting. This is a more direct and open interference and it will constitute a further step in the Vietnamization of the war in El Salvador which the people are experiencing thanks to the continuation of an unpopular regime in power.

[Fernandez Vilela] Javier, one of the arguments he wants to use to convince the Senate and the House to approve these additional funds is that if rejected, he would have to increase the number of military advisers and this, of course, would result in a more direct involvement in the Salvadoran conflict.

Well, since we are discussing this, I believe it is also important to discuss the reaction to the Reagan speech in the United States.

[Rodriguez] Well, there has been a positive and negative reaction. Logically, the most reactionary sectors support Reagan's remarks, but there are congressmen who oppose an increase in the aid to El Salvador. It must be noted tht it was perfectly clear in Reagan's speech that he opposes any kind of talks for a political solution to the Salvadoran situation. This is a settlement demanded by the international community and also by many U.S. congressmen and pacifists.

[Fernandez Vilela] These congressmen have subjected the U.S. aid to El Salvador to measures in this direction. I wanted to tell you that, for example, Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives, said that he wouldn't be surprised if this aid package was approved in the Senate but that it would be difficult for it to be approved in the House. He even said that Reagan had gone too far with El Salvador. There was another legislator who repeated O'Neill's remarks: He said that he doubted the House would approve, although he was certain that the Senate would do so.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said that Thomas Enders went too far when he tried to organize a policy based on the domino theory. It added that the Salvadoran affairs were being directly handled by William Clark, who is the president of the National Security Council [title as heard], in view of the friction between Congress and the executive in regard to the Salvadoran problem.

[Rodriguez] I think that other dangerous aspects of Reagan's speech must be stressed: He announced that $20 million will be given to Honduras and other countries of the area as military aid. I believe that Costa Rica is included among these countries. What does this mean? It means that the U.S. Government is handing out $20 million to continue to pay for the activities of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who are attacking Nicaragua from Honduran territory. This is the truth about who gets these funds. They are sent for former Somozists who are on the border with Nicaragua and launch attacks against that country. In other words, the Reagan administration is not only being intransigent about a political settlement for the Salvadoran problem but is also trying to increase pressure on Nicaragua by maintaining a flow of $20 million to pay for these actions and make tension prevail in the relations between Nicaragua and Honduras making it an aggressor as has occurred so far.

This shows that the U.S. policy of intervention in Central America is a constant factor.

[Fernandez Vilela] I believe that there are already many politicians, journalists, clergymen and other U.S. personalities, organizations and, of course, the American people who are very concerned about this new action of the Reagan administration.

I was reading a dispatch this morning which said that a San Franciso newspaper reporter noted that Vietnam can be smelled in the air again. He added that the panic of Reagan and his team regarding the Salvadoran situation and the gossip about the so-called domino theory can be easily perceived.

In fact, the domino theory is just a concept Kissinger came up with. According to him, when a domino fell it would knock down the others. This geopolitical concept which Kissinger promoted in international politics is being mentioned again and it seems that Enders tried to play with this same idea in the case of Central America, using the domino theory in favor of the United States.

[Rodriguez] I believe that it must be stressed, Vilela, that Reagan's violent and warmongering speech, which was heard throughout Latin America yesterday via the various American stations that carried it, contrasts with statements being made in New Delhi's Culture Palace -- where the chiefs of state of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference are meeting -- in favor of peace, cooperation, peaceful solutions to the problems existing in the world.

In other words, the language that Reagan is using is, of course, very different from that of leaders of underdeveloped countries who are meeting in New Delhi and who, even beyond certain differences regarding the agenda being discussed there, maintain their support for peace and rejection of warmongering policy, policies of force, imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism and advocate the people's right to live in peace. Reagan spoke yesterday against that peace, which more than 100 representatives of underdeveloped countries demanded in New Delhi. Therefore, this means that there are two different languages: One spoken by the underdeveloped countries, meaning most countries in the world, and the other spoken by the U.S. President in Washington.

[Fernandez Vilela] It is very important to note that of those 100 countries, 17 are Latin American and they have already agreed on a statement regarding El Salvador at the summit. These 17 countries represent a little over 1/2 of the Latin American nations. I believe that this U.S. intention will run into serious difficulties.

In conclusion, Reagan warned that this Salvadoran aid would serve to avert greater evils in Central America, which could also affect Mexico and the Panama Canal, except for the fact that the Mexican president clearly stated this morning that Mexico can solve its own problems and that it didn't need any predictions. This means that he flatly refuted Reagan's statements.

Well, we don't have much time. I wish we could have also discussed another U.S. action against peace and the rights of the peoples: The [words indistinct] in the 200-mile zone thus violating the Law of the Sea Convention recently signed in Montego Bay and a new aggression being planned against Grenada according to some statements by the department of defense. Well, we truly don't have much time left, but we could discuss this some other day.

'Our America' Commentary

PA111645 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 Mar 83

["Our America" Commentary]

[Text] On Tuesday, President Ronald Reagan announced to Congress his decision to increase military aid to the Salvadoran regime. Once again, his argument was that by doing this he is defending vital U.S. interests. We cannot defend them and meet our commitment to the world unless we secure the Western Hemisphere, Reagan said. He also said that he will not support unconditional negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrilla forces, nor what he called dialogues blocking the democratic process in that Central American country.

Following objectives that are definitely demagogic, the U.S. Government has pressed the Salvadoran dictatorship to advance to December the presidential elections that originally were scheduled for March 1984.

The U.S. maneuver is obvious. By forcing the Salvadoran regime to advance the elections, Reagan is trying to justify the military aid increase to the Salvadoran Army and also the number of U.S. advisers in that country.

The idea is to present the elections as the political solution that Salvadoran progressive organizations are demanding and thus frustrate the people's liberation efforts.

The FMLN and the FDR have said that elections cannot and will not be the political solution to a country that is in war. The March 1982 elections to elect the constituent assembly were an example of the danger of this fallacy. For us, the FMLN and the FDR said, the elections are part of a conditioned political solution and not an alternative to a political solution.

In the meantime, the U.S. Government is conducting another of its maneuvers, which is to mediate the situation in El Salvador. Through the Costa Rican Government, the United States is sponsoring a so-called regional dialogue in which, theoretically, the United States is not represented. Its objective would be to seek solutions to the Central American crisis, mainly the Salvadoran conflict.

The news media of the region have already pointed out that it is the same old horse with its coat tinted. It recalls similar U.S. proposals which ended in a total failure.

Recently, Thomas Enders, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, confirmed those suspicions when he praised the alleged Costa Rican initiative, saying that it conformed to the efforts contained in the Declaration of San Jose, which the United States promoted, and which failed in its beginning.

THE NEW YORK TIMES recently said that there are no reasons to believe that the call for elections in 1983 and other initiatives supported by the United States are based on the belief that these initiatives will solve anything in that Central American country. THE NEW YORK TIMES emphasized that U.S. politicians should be more realistic and urged them to accept dialogue with the Salvadoran revolutionary forces on an end to the war, which is devastating El Salvador.

Therefore, not even so-called regional dialogue or presidential elections are serious alternatives to an end to the war and to reduced political tensions in Central America. They only serve to justify U.S. intervention in the region and to encourage political tensions that are shocking the area.

Radio Commentary

FL121850 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Mar 83

["Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information" Program commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has once again tried to justify his intention to continue to provide aid to the genocidal regime of El Salvador. Now he is proposing an emergency military aid package of $110 billion in order to have that nation's criminal government continue the wave of assassinations against the people.

In a recalcitrant and reactionary speech before the National Association of Manufacturers, Reagan asserted that another $190 million would be requested from the Congress to give to other Central American regimes allied with the United States. Likwise, he repeated his accusations against Cuba and the Soviet Union, trying to distort the facts, and said he favored elections in El Salvador without the participation of the guerrillas. His speech was characterized by his refusal to negotiate with leftist forces, his deep hatred of the revolution and his intent to keep the situation at an impasse.

The many kinds of justifications used by Reagan to frame this aggressive and sinister policy were the order of day in his address to the manufacturers, despite the worn-out state of these arguments.

Reagan said that U.S. national security is at stake in Central America, although he failed to explain what the war in El Salvador has to do with the security of the faraway borders of the United States. However, he did not say that what is at stake in the Salvadoran war is his egotistical interest in the area and that therefore the war, encouraged by the United States, threatens peace in the region.

Despite his sarcasm, Reagan had to admit that the situation in El Salvador does not favor the regime of Alvaro Magana and that the guerrillas have the upper hand. Of course, that acknowledgement was followed by the alleged commitment Washington has made to help this unfortuate friend.

During his string of nonsense, Reagan indicated that his aim was to help the army against the guerrilla peril, forgetting that the one who started the policy of crimes and terror against the Salvadoran people was this very same unfortunate, rotten and defensless army that serves the reactionaries and Washington.

Elsewhere, he added that an increase in the number of military advisors to participate in the antiguerrilla war is under study, although he insisted that no U.S. troops would be sent to that country, trying to make everyone forget that U.S. military advisors' actual participation in Salvadoran military operations has occurred on more than one occasion.

There is skepticism in congress over Reagan's speech and the leader of the Democratic majority, Tip O'Neill, said he believed Reagan's had made a gross exaggeration and failed to provide enough justification for the money he is requesting. THE NEW YORK TIMES asseted that the war in El Salvador does not appear to be an advanced front of struggle against communism and added that, contrary to what the President says, what is happening in El Salvador is the result of a long history of economic tyranny and political oppression of the part of a small ruling elite. The same paper said that the Salvadoran Government is more interested in wiping out the population than in the fight against the guerrillas.

Thus U.S. public opinion begins to manifest itself over the nonsensical and lying Reagan speech, which was aimed at trying to increase military aid to El Salvador. Only those who think as he does could believe in such arguments.

His speech notwithstanding, the fate of El Salvador is being decided on the fields of battle. The guerrillas have been winning an unstoppable string of victories. The FMLN and the FDR have proclaimed their decision to negotiate and the Salvadoran regime is completely bankrupt. Therefore, the only thing left to ask Reagan is if that $10 million will be used for the funeral of the Alvaro Magana administration.

HART MEETS WITH CHERNENKO, ARRIVES IN SPAIN

FL111945 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Armando Hart, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and culture minister, was received by Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee, in Moscow today. The meeting was warm and friendly. They discussed certain matters regarding cooperation between the two parties. Jorge Enrique Mendoza, member of our party's Central Committee and director of the newspaper GRANMA, and Rene Anillo, alternate member of the Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to the USSR, also attended the meeting.

Hart in Spain

FL121945 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of culture, arrived today in the Spanish capital. It was announced that Hart will open an exposition of contemporary Cuban paintings, a sample entitled: paintings of Cuba and Spain, and lithographs of the 19th century.

ICAP PRESIDENT MEETS WITH YUGOSLAV LEAGUE GROUP

FL111929 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1536 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Rene Rodriguez Cruz, President of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP] and member of the Central Committee, has received a delegation of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia headed by Ivica Kukoc, member of the League's Central Committee. During the meeting, which was held at the ICAP office, the Yugoslav visitors explained the agreements reached in the league's 12th congress and their position regarding the world's economic and social problems.

MACHADO MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND FRONT

FL111830 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 0957 GMT on 11 March carries live coverage of the military ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Frank Pais Second Front. The ceremony is being broadcast from the site of the mausoleum in Segundo Frente Municipality where the rebel army comrades who fell in battle are buried.

The radio announcer sets the scene; reporting that reviewing stand has been erected in front of the mausoleum. At 1500 GMT the military troops are called to attention as the group presiding over the ceremony takes its place on the reviewing stand. Martial music is played and marching orders are given. The commanding officer orders three rifle salvos in salute to the comrades who fell in battle 25 years ago. He then addresses Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias to announce that the 641st regiment of territorial militia troops, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (Castillo Rodriguez), is ready to receive its combat flag.

The announcer reports that Garcia Frias presents the combat flag to the regimental commander. Television announcer Antonio Pera calls out the names of members of the regiment who have been awarded certificates for their outstanding work. Pera then introduces party Politburo and secretariat member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura.

Machado Ventura begins his speech at 1507 GMT. He gives a lengthy historical outline of revolutionary exploits and the formation of the second eastern front. He exhorts the people to contribute to the success of the revolution as he notes:

"As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the second front, our people enthusiastically carry out the tasks proclaimed by the sixth plenum of the Party Central Committee in tribute to the 30th anniversary of the assault on Moncada Barracks whose fulfillment means to do today what the rebel fighters and most of the population of this region did 25 years ago. In the name of the heroes of the fatherland, the party has called for the fortification of our defenses. Today, more than 500,000 men and women throughout the country are members of the territorial militia troops while at the same time the combative capacity of the FAR and the Interior Ministry is being improved.

To act today as the combatants of yesterday means to be more efficient and disciplined on the job and to make it more productive. It means to make greater savings. It means to fulfill the tasks assigned by the revolution and the party with the highest degree of revolutionary awareness. To follow the example of our combatants means to be ready to defend our fatherland against imperialist aggression and fulfill the duties imposed by our commitments to the working class, taking part in the national liberation movements of our brother countries."

Regarding recent losses caused by torrential rains, Machado Ventura says: "In the face of obstacles presented by the enemy or the difficulties imposed by natural conditions, let us respond with the attitude of the rebel fighters who are the inspiration and guides of our people. [Applause] We are certain that with that spirit we shall confront the difficulties caused by the torrential rains which have recently hit the country causing enormous and irreparable damage to agriculture."

He praises the conduct, eloquence and bearing of Fidel Castro in his speech before the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, quoting from the speech and picking up the theme of what it means to struggle and says:

"to struggle," has been the slogan used to confront imperialist military and economic aggression. To struggle, is and has been the only standard we should hoist in confronting material difficulties and in facing our deficiencies. Let us struggle against the imperialist blockade. Let us struggle against its threats and aggression and against the evils of the past. Let us struggle to strengthen the unity of our people in support of our party and Fidel and make it more indestructible each day. Long live the 25th anniversary of the Frank Pais Second Eastern Front. Long live our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Fatherland or death we shall win." [Applause and viva's]

Machado Ventura ends his speech at 1534 GMT. Music is played and at 1537 GMT the announcer reports that the ceremony has ended.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH VANUATU

FL111400 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Telephone report by Orlando Contreras, special Cuban correspondent at the Seventh Nonaligned Conference New Delhi -- live]

[Excerpts] We can also report that this morning Cuba and Vanuatu established diplomatic relations at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan [Palace] where the documents were signed by Vanuatu's deputy prime minister, Sethy Regenvanu [title as heard], and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

IRMA SANCHEZ MEETS WITH ROMANIA'S OPREA

FL112000 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Irma Sanchez, minister president of the state committee for material and technical supply, has begun a visit to Romania. As part of her stay, she was received by Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister.

CEMA TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION MEETING CLOSES

FL121954 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] The 28th CEMA Scientific-Technical Cooperation Committee meeting has come to a close in Havana with the signing of a protocol by the eleven countries participating. Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the party Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, attended the closing session.

After the signing of the document closing the important CEMA meeting, I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the CEMA committee, which met here, said the meeting had very positive results, among them, the agreement to increase even further the cooperation between CEMA member countries and Cuba within the accelerated scientific-technical development program. The program, extended to 1990, was granted a multinational credit of 70 million rubles.

CASTRO PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO GDR 12-13 MARCH

For media coverage of the visit of Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chairman of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, to the GDR 12-13 March, see the GDR section of the 14 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SOCIALIST GROUP TRAVELS TO CUBA, NICARAGUA

PA131603 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1344 GMT Mar 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 13 Mar (EFE) -- A delegation of 15 Dominican socialists left last night for Cuba and Nicaragua where they will hold talks on "the serious political situation in Central America and the Caribbean." The group is headed by Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party (PCD). Along with Roberto Duverge, Arsenio Hernandez and Carlos Dore. The PCD secretary general is representing the Socialist Unity Group. The Leftist Unity Group representatives are Rafael "Fafa" Taveras, Juan B. Mejia, Leonardo Mercedes, Roberto Santana, Claudio Taverez, Enrique de Leon, Francisco Santos, Lucas Vicens, Ramon Valerio, Jose "Chino" Bujosa and Jose Francisco Oviedo Landestory.

Before leaving, the communist delegates said that in Nicaragua and Cuba they will explain their ideas on the Dominican Political Movement while also denouncing the various ways in which "imperialist domination with the complicity of the powerful native classes and the government" is expressed in the Dominican Republic.

"All we Latin Americans view with concern how the warlike and interventionist policy of North American imperialism, represented by the Reagan administration, is heating up and further complicating the situation in Central America and the Caribbean," said a communique issued by members of the Socialist Unity and the Leftist Unity groups on the occasion of their representatives' departure.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SELA COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS IN BUENOS AIRES

PY110342 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1435 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (TELAM) -- Victor Hugo Santirso, Argentine secretary of agriculture and livestock, has stated that Latin America and the Caribbean have agreed to broaden their cooperation in the field of agriculture and nutrition. He made this remark when speaking yesterday at the closing ceremony of the consultative meeting at which the Action Committee for Regional Nutritional Security (CASAR) was established.

This means that the objective of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, meeting at the General San Martin Cultural Center in Buenos Aires was successfully achieved.

The closing ceremony was attended by Santirso Felix Pena, under secretary of international economic relations, and the Dominican Homero Hernandez, permanent SELA assistant secretary, in addition to other important persons.